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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Briefs

PLO Stand at Baghdad Conference	1
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AFGHANISTAN

Exploitation of Islam by Regime's Opponents Castigated (ANIS, 15 Mar 80)	2
Tawana on Visit to USSR, Morale of Muslims (Mukhtar Ahmad Kashif; JASARAT, 29 Jan 80)	4
Victorious Revolution Dashes American Designs (Sidali; ANIS, 18 Mar 80)	8
Western Radio-Broadcasts Criticized Severely (Arsh; ANIS, 18 Mar 80)	10
Commentator Maps Collusion Between Imperialism, China and Pakistan (ANIS, 8 Mar 80)	13
'Biggest Allocation' for Higher Education (Editorial; ANIS, 21 Feb 80)	16

EGYPT

New Bill Makes Rulings for Conscription Fairer for Citizens (Kamil Mursi; AL-AKHBAR, 12 Mar 80)	18
Economic Cooperation Official Reports on Joint Projects, Foreign Currency (AL-AKHBAR, 14 Mar 80)	23

CONTENTS (Continued)

Party Housing Project Represents New Approach To Solving Housing Crisis ('Abd-al-Karim Salim, Ahmad Gharib; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 18 Mar 80)	25
Undesirable Elements, Narcotics Rounded Up in Two Areas ('Abd-al-Wahhab al-Yirqani; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 14 Mar 80)	28
Produce Spoilage Problem Reviewed, Solutions Offered ('Adil Shafiq; AL-AHRAM, 13 Mar 80)	30
New Efforts To Be Made To Promote Family Planning (Bahirah Mukhtar; AL-AHRAM, 18 Mar 80)	33
New Director Appointed to Armed Forces Company (AL-WAQA'I' Al-MISRIYAH, 27 Feb 80)	35
Briefs	
Population Studies Institute	36
Suez Housing Investment Fund	36
Al-Gizah City Planning	36

IRAN

Soviets Plan To Complete 'Collection' (Editorial; NAME-YE RUZ, 11 Mar 80)	38
Finnish Builders Ask Their Government's Aid To Cover Losses (HELSINGIN SANOMAT, 13 Mar 80)	40

IRAQ

Pro-Moscow Arab Parties Excluded From Baghdad Conference (AL-MAJALLAH, 29 Mar-4 Apr 80)	42
Sentences Passed on Spy Network in Aden (Various sources, 3, 4 Apr 80)	43
Sentences Passed	
Sentences Condemned	
Growth of Oil Industry Reviewed (AL-NAFT WA AL-'ALAM, Jan 80)	45
Growth Since Nationalization, by D. Hafiz al-Tukumji	
Accomplishments in 1979	

CONTENTS (Continued)

Kurdistan Development Projects Grew During Past Year (AL-THAWRAH, 15 Jan 80)	56
Briefs	
Animal Breeding Complexes	58
Irbil Governorate Roads	58
Mirage Order	59
French Company Gas Contract	59
Transport Cooperation Agreement	59
Loan to Madagascar	60
Zimbabwe Embassy	60
ISRAEL	
Sixth Plenary Convention of Agudat Israel Lauded (Editorial; HAMODI'A, 15 Feb 80)	61
Difficult Situation Regarding Palestinian Autonomy Anticipated (Editorial; HAMODI'A, 20 Feb 80)	63
Exchange of Ambassadors Welcomed, But Continuing Differences Stressed (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 17 Feb 80)	65
Careful Pursuit of Religious Alinement Advised (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 17 Feb 80)	67
After Tito, Yugoslav Leadership To Face Problem of Maintaining Unity (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 17 Feb 80)	69
Court Decision on Teachers' Pay Increase Seen Leading to Difficulties (Editorial; HAMODI'A, 20 Feb 80)	70
KUWAIT	
Foreign Minister Discusses Euro-Arab Cooperation, Security (Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber Interview; CONNAISSANCE DU MONDE ARABE, Mar 80)	72
LEBANON	
Mufti Comments on Afghanistan, Saqat, Islamic Revival (Shaykh Hasan Khalid Interview; AL-DUSTUR, 18-24 Feb 80)	76

CONTENTS (Continued)

Lebanese Ba'thist Leader Discusses Inter-Arab Affairs ('Abd al-Majid al-Rafi'i Interview; AL-DUSTUR, 18-24 Feb 80)	83
---	----

MAURITANIA

Food Aid Official Discusses CAA's 1980 Program (Maloukiv O. El Hassen Interview; CHAAB, 28 Feb 80) .	90
---	----

SAUDI ARABIA

Minister of Planning Discusses Third Five-Year Development Plan (AL-IQTISAD, Feb 80)	93
Report on Problems Confronting the Private Economic Sector (AL-IQTISAD, Jan 80)	97

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Khaddam Discusses Inter-Arab Relations, Foreign Policy ('Abd-al-Halim Khaddam Interview; AL-BA'TH, 10 Feb 80)	109
Lack of Organization Seen Responsible for Agricultural Woes (Editorial, Samih Abu Takk; AL-BA'TH, 6 Feb 80)	118
Railroad, Other Projects Nearing Completion in Hims Province (AL-BA'TH, 7 Feb 80)	120
Insurance Coverage Given New Life ('Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kafri; AL-BA'TH, 7 Feb 80)	121

TUNISIA

Arab League Holds Special Session on Gafsa Aggression (Editorial; DEMOCRATIE, Mar 80)	127
Government's Demand for Foreign Assistance Hit (DEMOCRATIE, Mar 80)	129
Reorganization of UGET Recommended (DEMOCRATIE, Mar 80)	131

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

NDF Leader Discusses Front's Genesis, Yemeni Unification Attempts (Sultan Ahmad 'Umar Interview; AL-NAHAR AL'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 16 Mar 80)	133
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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

PLO STAND AT BAGHDAD CONFERENCE--A PLO delegation led by Abu al-Hawl attended the "popular conference" held in Baghdad last week to discuss the Pan-Arab Charter proposed by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The PLO's stand at the conference did not please the Iraqis. But at the same time it did not anger them, because the Iraqis are aware of the PLO's obligations to certain regimes in the area. The PLO pleased the Iraqis by attending the conference. However, by voicing reservations on the Pan-Arab Charter, Abu al-Hawl pleased Syria and flirted with Libya in view of both countries' positions on the Iraqi plan. The PLO official proposed amending the charter so that it would state clearly that the Palestinian cause is the Arabs' primary cause. In his speech to the conference Abu al-Hawl was anxious to defend the Iranian revolution. He said the three Gulf islands that are currently occupied by Iran can be returned to the Arabs through a friendly dialog with Iran. Thus, the PLO delegation emerged from the conference with a flexible diplomatic stand in which it was anxious to retain all its cards. [Text] [GF071223 Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic 4 Apr 80 p 13 GF]

CSO: 4802

EXPLOITATION OF ISLAM BY REGIME'S OPPONENTS CASTIGATED

Kabul ANIS in Dari 15 Mar 80 pp 4, 5

/Article: "Unchaste Acts by Islam under the Pretext of Defending Islam"/

/Text/ Today American imperialism and the well known leaders of several Arab countries have launched extensive organized fraudulent propaganda against the free and independent nation and the Moslem people of Afghanistan, aimed at covering up their treacherous, anti-Islamic acts of collusion over the cause of the Arabs of Palestine and the Islamic world.

With complete insolence, following the glorious April revolution, especially its new stage, they have embarked on persistent, disgraceful and treasonous efforts, under the slogan that "to save Islam (!) in Afghanistan, one must turn to all possible means," in order to rescue their greedy, vanished interests from utter oblivion by returning to the black period of dependence on tyranny and imperialism.

When aware, realistic Moslems are faced with this futile, tendentious and fraudulent claim by the leaders of Washington, Cairo, Tel Aviv, Arab reaction and militaristic Pakistan reaction, the various aspects of these allegations are immediately subjected to evaluation and examination by their pure, uncontaminated minds and consciences, and they proceed to gain understanding by raising such questions as "are the leaders of Washington, Peking, Cairo and Tel Aviv really the defenders of Islam? What is the purpose of these hypocritical defenders' allegations? What ways and means are they using to attain their end?"

The recognized stooges of several Islamic countries, who are leaning on thrones of power against the will and desire of the Moslem people of their countries, are now impudently crying out about Islam. However, they are perpetrating unforgivable crimes against Islam and Moslems in collusion and connivance with the recognized enemies of the toiling Moslems of the world.

In order to collaborate with the aggressive and expansionist acts of Israel, they signed the disgraceful, contemptuous Camp David agreement with Israel

by orders of world-consuming American imperialism, and now, in order to give it the semblance of legitimacy, they are flying the banner of Zionism in Cairo against the wishes and will of the downtrodden Moslems of the world.

al-Sadat has not contented himself with trampling over the feelings and freedom-loving will of the Arab people of Palestine and Egypt and the Moslems of the world in order to prove greater efficient service to his White House masters in implementing the conspiracies of treasonous dealings and accommodations; his black hand has even found its way from the heart of the Arab countries to our area and is trying to put the evil intrigues and plans of the CIA into action in order to obtain bloody revenge and preserve the diabolical dominance of his accomplices in the area.

"Now there are documents and items of evidence at hand which cannot be ignored to the effect that the CIA espionage organization of the imperialism of the United States of America, the sabotage networks of the Chinese Maoists, Pakistan, Egypt and Arab reaction had and are having an active role in the 22-23 February conspiracy and recent sabotage acts. Recently one of the active members of the spy organization, the international saboteur Diya'-al-Din Mahmud, a citizen of the Arab Republic of Egypt, entered the country, in a facial disguise and changed clothing, with the aid of Pakistani reaction and hireling servants inside the country, with the objective of sabotage, provocation, training of insurgents and bandits, and photography of military installations, but, with the support of--and actually by means of--the security forces which are the friendly guardians of the national interests and the peaceful life of the toilers of the country, he was arrested in the Province of Konar and placed under legal investigation."

This person's conference with domestic and foreign correspondents, which was disseminated yesterday evening over Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Radio and Television, has lifted the curtain over the filthy objectives and goals which the CIA has put into operation with the collusion of the treasonous al-Sadat against the freedom-loving Moslems of Palestine and the Egyptian nation in the face of the fraudulent, hypocritical tumult about defending Islam and the so-called "Afghanistan issue."

al-Sadat, the swindler of history, is unaware to what extent his treasonous collusion with Carter and Begin has stirred up the disgust and revulsion of the Moslem peoples of the world. Not only can his tampering in the domestic affairs of our country not conceal his unforgivable crimes against Palestine and the Arab world--it also increases the blackness of his filthy, disgraceful face in the world.

The aware Moslem people of the world will soon be at the dawn of a revolutionary movement which today is moving to bring down the satellite regimes of American imperialism in the Islamic countries, will put an end to the disgraceful, despicable lives of the al-Sadats, militaristic Pakistani reaction, and Arab reaction and, in solidarity and concert with the peace-loving world which stands for social progress, will confront the positions of imperialism with abject destruction.

AFGHANISTAN

TAWANA ON VISIT TO USSR, MORALE OF MUSLIMS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 29 Jan 80 p 12

[Article translated into Urdu by Mukhtar Ahmad Kashif (Original author and language not identified): "Russian Muslims Are Taking Refuge in Afghanistan"]

[Text] Professor Musa Tawana, chairman of the Armed Muslim Organization of Afghanistan, met with a group of Muslim journalists during his visit to Istanbul, Turkey. During this meeting Professor Tawana talked about the condition of Muslims under Soviet rule, and gave an account of the present situation in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Republic of Tadjikistan, he said, is on the other side of the Soviet-Afghan border. The people of Tadjikistan are mainly Muslims, and they speak Persian just like the people of Afghanistan. The people of Tadjikistan and adjoining republics, who are also mainly Muslims, hate the Russian system of government. They are migrating and taking refuge in Afghanistan from Russian oppression. These Muslims include the people that were imprisoned by the Soviet Government. These Muslims while fleeing are not at all afraid of the guns of the Russian soldiers posted all along the border. They lead a miserable life and the Russian Government is trying to make them return to their country through the religious leader Sheikh Ziyauddin Babakhanov.

In reply to a question by one of the Turkish journalists, as to how much these Russian Muslims love the Afghan Muslims, Professor Tawana said:

"I was invited by the Russian Government to visit the Soviet Union when I was a professor at Kabul University during Sardar Daud Khan's regime. I was accompanied by two of my colleagues. First of all, we went to Tadjikistan and from there we went to Samargand. The people here are also Muslims just like us. We were joyed by this. The Russian Government had not given them permission to shake hands with us. But in spite of that, because of love and belonging to the same faith, we embraced one another impulsively. [The Russians] were very angry at our expression of sincere love, because they do not know how much spiritual pleasure is hidden in belonging to the same faith. Tears were rolling down from our

eyes. The Muslims of this region were standing in line waiting to shake hands with us. The scene is an example of the deep love we have in our hearts for Islam.

Truthfulness of the Russian Muslims

According to our program, we went to a Mosque for Friday prayers. The imam of the mosque, being a government employee, praised the Russian system of government. He said that the Soviet Union and the Russians had the blessings of God and that the Russians were doing everything in their means for the good of our people. Then he stopped talking. There was deep silence. This atmosphere of deep silence portrayed the falsehood of the muliah who had sold his religion. Out of the people gathered for prayers, at least one person was courageous enough to say that it was false and a white lie. Saying this, the man walked out of the mosque. The imam of the mosque said that the man had lost his senses.

People Are Forbidden to Read the Koran

Copies of the Holy Koran printed in Moscow are meant to be given only to Muslims from other countries, who usually come on a visit to the Soviet Union. Sometime after we started our visit, another delegation had also started on a visit [from] Afghanistan. During an open air meeting, a Russian official told the delegation that the Russian Muslims were enjoying themselves in a paradise of independence. Here, he said, in the house of every Muslim you can find a copy of the Holy Koran. He said that one printing house in Moscow is exclusively devoted to printing the Koran. After finishing his speech, the Russian officer presented a copy of the Holy Koran to the Afghan delegation. In the evening, when the delegation was resting in the hotel, a Muslim laborer came. The laborer said that he was present at the meeting, and that whatever the Russian official had said was all false. I believe that you are devoted servants of Islam, he said. If you kindly give me the copy of the Holy Koran the Russian officer gave you, I shall be very much obliged and I shall pray for you, because I need the Holy Koran very badly, he said.

Russian Muslims Hate Russian Form of Government

Professor Tawana told the Turkish journalists that there were some towns in Russia, on the northern side of Afghanistan, which were solely inhabited by Muslims and were victims of Russian imperialism. He said that [the] Russian Government had imposed restrictions on non-Muslims and told them not to travel into Muslim populated towns and villages from sunset to dawn. The only reason given was that during darkness of night Muslims force their way into Russian homes and kill them.

Russian Muslims do not like communism at all. The 45 million Muslims living under Russia are religiously conscientious Muslims. The beginning of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan is part of this conscientiousness.

Therefore, the Russians are trying to put into practice their plan of bringing about communist revolution in Afghanistan. He was asked as to which element in the Russian army fighting for Marxist order in Afghanistan dominated the others.

Professor Tawana said that "in our country of Afghanistan we look down with contempt upon Russian military intervention in Afghanistan." He said that in the province of Tadjikistan near Afghanistan all the people are Muslims. They speak Persian just like we do. The soldiers the Russians sent to fight against the Afghan militants are composed of Muslims, because Russia does not want to use Russian soldiers in crushing the Islamic revolution of Afghan freedom fighters. Russia has reserved Russian soldiers for times of extreme peril. Russia wants Muslims to die fighting one another and thus reduce their manpower.

Professor Tawana added that in its official communique the Afghan Government had put the number of Soviet soldiers [in Afghanistan] at 5,000, including members of the police force. According to our information, he said, their number is not in any way less than 15,000 soldiers, and soldiers surrounding the presidential palace in Kabul were all Russians.

Russian Political Plan

The Soviet Union wants to follow a lenient policy towards Afghanistan, a policy which does not have elements of political violence as prevailed in the policy of Hafizullah Amin. Before Amin, Noor Mohammad Taraki also followed a policy of extreme repression. The question arises as to why should Russia want to follow a lenient policy towards the Afghan people. In keeping with its traditional [strategy], Russia is justified in following this policy. Through this lenient policy, Russia would like to relax its [drive] against the holy war of the Afghan militants, and will continue its policy of not taking any notice of the Afghan militants until such time as they stop participating in the holy war. Taking advantage of such a letdown on the part of Afghan Mujahids, Russia will try to achieve its imperialistic designs to a certain extent.

Professor Tawana added that both the Russians and the United States think alike in this matter. That is why they look for a person like Babrak Karmal with whom they can negotiate, so that, as a result of such negotiations, the stage can be set for dampening and crushing the spirit of the fighters altogether.

The Russian Ambassador had met with the U.S. Ambassador in Kabul with these intentions, so as to bring on his side a person who could be more useful than Hafizullah Amin, and thus make it easier for the Russian bear to embark upon his new policy.

When asked how these facts came to his knowledge the professor replied: "Afghan freedom fighters have their own news dispatch offices throughout

Afghanistan. Aside from fighting a holy war against the Russians, some of them seek to uncover some concealed aspects of political policies. Through them we obtain helpful information and we have strong connections with these news sources.

Soviet-Afghan Defense Pact

One of the Turkish journalists asked: Why have the Russians come into Afghanistan and are fighting there?

Professor Tawana replied: "During the reign of King Zahir Shah, two pacts were concluded between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. A third pact was concluded during the regime of Sardar Daud Khan. In recent days, especially during the period when Noor Mohammad Taraki was in power, a joint defense pact was signed which provided that Afghanistan will support the Soviet Union against enemies in every possible way, and that the Soviet Union will likewise support Afghanistan. According to the second article of this Joint Defense Pact, the Soviet Union with all capabilities at its command will help the ruling communist group in Afghanistan against the holy war of the Afghan militants.

Professor Tawana said in conclusion that 90 percent of the Afghans are taking part in the holy war. They are not [from] outside Afghanistan's borders and are not citizens of some enemy country. They are pure Afghans.

9315

CSO: 4211

VICTORIOUS REVOLUTION DASHES AMERICAN DESIGNS

Kabul ANIS in Dari 18 Mar 80 p 4

/Article by Sidali: "With the Triumph of the New Stage of the April Revolution, the Plans of American Imperialism Have Become Mere Writing on Water"/

/Text/ On 27 December 1979, the painful tragedy came to an end. Amin the traitor, the faithful representative of the American CIA, with his terrorist gang, vanished. These black acts and agendas were consigned to the garbage can of history and, with the start of the second stage of the perfection of the April revolution, the gates of all the prisons were opened up before the people and political prisoners in general were freed. The people regained all their human rights and there are no longer any obstacles in the way of the implementation of religious and sectarian ceremonies and national customs and traditions of the people, in accordance with the policy of the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Everyone can perform his religious observances freely, with his mind at rest.

However, again, the propaganda agencies of imperialism, in accordance with their negativistic nature, have begun poisoned propaganda against the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, claiming that the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the sacred Islamic religion have supposedly become endangered in Afghanistan, whereas all these allegations are null and void.

What, in reality, have become endangered are the imperialistic interests of world-devouring American imperialism, since it can no longer advance its imperialistic objectives within Afghanistan. Fortunately, the noble people of Afghanistan have become well aware of the identity and ill will behind all this propaganda. No evil propaganda can confuse our truth-seeking people's minds over the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, since our revolutionary government is exerting a comprehensive effort to furnish a totally democratic, free atmosphere for the noble people of Afghanistan.

In the portentous statement by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the following was mentioned on this subject:

"The sacred religion of Islam, the admirable customs and traditions of the ethnic groups, tribes and peoples of our nation, are the inseparable principles of the national regime and the priceless moral treasures of our beloved nation. Our Moslem people know that during the periods of tyrannical governments of the Naderi family, all creeds of the sacred Islamic religion were subjected to extreme discrimination, especially those which spring from the Shiite creed, and those which adhere to other creeds became the object of loathing and hatred. Likewise, the national customs and traditions of the various ethnic groups and tribes of our nation were also loathed and hated."

Babrak Karmal's portentous statement, based on the protection of the sacred Islamic religion and respect for all religious rituals and observances and the national traditions of the people of Afghanistan, is in reality a further strong, crushing blow against the mouths of the domestic and foreign enemies and the reactionaries of the region, headed by world-devouring American imperialism. Now the people of Afghanistan fully recognize their friends and enemies, and those of their nation, and will never be deceived by such meaningless, wrong propaganda, nor will they allow any of their enemies to sow discord between the people and the government in the name of one thing or another and benefit from it to their advantage.

11887

CSO: 4906

WESTERN RADIO-BROADCASTS CRITICIZED SEVERELY

Kabul ANIS in Dari 18 Mar 80 pp 4, 5

/Article by Arsh: "The Mudalinging of the Western Radio Regarding Afghanistan"/

/Text/ In our culture, lying is an ugly, unpraiseworthy action; I do not think that lying is praised in human culture, or that a lying government is considered enduring, in general. From the point of view of psychologists, lying derives its source from fear, from people's weakness and lack of self confidence. He who thinks straight, relies on himself and is sure of his creative strength never resorts to lying and knows no path other than truth. The lives of lies and liars have always been brief.

Modern psychologists have written books on this subject and have established proof that lying is the reflex of a shaken spirit, the symbol of human fear; in every culture, such action is considered unpraiseworthy, blameworthy, ugly and inadmissible. Then again, lying is a sign of impotence, a proof of weakness and the consequence of a disturbed spirit and sterile mind, not a sound intellect. The impotent and the shallow tend to lie and sometimes use lying as a cover to conceal their deficiencies and injustices. They accuse others of fabricating lies and spreading rumors in order to conceal their disgraceful, ugly nature behind a mask of idle nonsense. However, it is a point which has been proved that the caravan of prattlers and fabricators of lies does not reach its destination and that liars are without foundation, like false dawns, conveying no benefit, entailing loss, deceiving those on the caravan who have been traveling at night and whose hearts are set on the true dawn and the real morning.

Again, from the first day, the triumph of the creative April revolution has met with an extensive reaction throughout the world. Throughout the world, the freedom-loving countries which are on the side of peace, democracy and social progress and are in a battle on a broad level against reaction, imperialism, Zionism, warmongering and expansionism, became satisfied when the chains of tyranny became triumphant in the land of the eagles and heroes /sic/.

They arose in defense of the young Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and displayed their unstinting, brotherly support for our people and revolution while countries which stand against freedom, against peace, against democracy and social progress, which are the partisans of warmongering, the rumormongers of apartheid and the defenders of reaction, imperialism, Zionism, aggression and expansionism, became discontent. They collaborated and, not sitting still for a moment, proceeded tumultuously to create rumors, weave lies and state nonsense. They even proceeded directly to interfere and meddle in our domestic affairs. Now that we have ruptured the chains of 5,000 years of royal tyranny, domineering rulers and hireling princes in our free land, and have embarked on the road toward the creation of a free, developed society, it seems that a knife has gone into the backs of the enemies who have all proceeded to plot and scheme and commit treachery against us. Still, the cry of the glorious April revolution has not been uniform throughout the world; it had various reactions, which is wholly natural. Had it been otherwise, that would not have been right. The enemies must not support us. Our road is separate from theirs. We are surging toward growth and light and they are moving toward exhaustion and darkness. We have adopted the road to truth and they are headed toward oblivion. Our revolution is reflective of the demands of the toilers and is fighting so that their demands may be realized. They stand against the interests of the toilers, are exploiting the suffering, and hold all mankind in contempt. Our revolution is fighting to deliver man from moral and material slavery, and they are offering everything man owns for sale.

Materialistic, degenerate Western culture is heedless of the lofty status and life of man. It views everything from its commercial aspects. In the mad, unfettered world of the West, capital determines all criteria and values.

In the first days of the triumph of the glorious April revolution, our friends and enemies were recognized; we easily became apprised of who our friends were and who our enemies were. For countless years, when the headstrong were governing our country and were consigning our people to a debilitating social, economic, political and cultural slavery, the mass media of the West (radio, television, newspapers, magazines and journals), and even the Western film industry, were silent about our country. Many years passed without their mentioning Afghanistan or publishing any news on the subject. None of the many demonstrations against the government, slogans, and street speeches were reflected, even a slight or transitory fashion, in the mass media of the West. Since all these struggles were in opposition to their representatives and their satellites, and since their enormous profits here were guaranteed, the obstinate stand of the contaminated Western press, which has recently become an empty, sick press, against our people's revolution cannot be an unnatural matter. Had it been otherwise, it would have been cause for anxiety, since we are not united with them, the difference between us is like that between heaven and earth, they are the guardians of darkness and we are the partisans of the morning and of light; they are struggling on behalf of injustice and we are fighting for

justice. Their struggle is an individual one, for the procurement of personal advantage, the triumph of the rotten notion of individualism, and we are struggling for the salvation of the group. We praise and esteem the humane philosophy of "collectivism." The mercenary, hireling radios of the West were also silent in the period of Hafizollah Amin and his treasonous gang and were not making such wailings and gnashings, since they had come to realize that Hafizollah Amin was also one of their offspring and was also struggling to realize their greedy interests.

However, with the fall of Amin and his destructive gang and the triumph of the new stage of perfection of the April revolution, the degenerate, exposed radio stations, which have a reactionary identity, including the Voice of America, the BBC, Radio Peking and the Voice of Cairo, have begun sling mud and are disseminating untrue, fraudulent news about Afghanistan; this is the duty which has been assigned to them. However, clear thinking people will never be able to believe these nonsensical statements, since they are closer to their homeland than to any radio station.

11887

CSO: 4906

COMMENTATOR MAPS COLLUSION BETWEEN IMPERIALISM, CHINA AND PAKISTAN

Kabul ANIS in Dari 8 Mar 80 pp 4, 5

/Article by A. K.: "Pakistani Reaction in Collusion with World Imperialism and Self-Aggrandizing Chinese Chauvinism"/

/Text/ The capitalist government monopolies, according to the dictates of their greedy interests and their utterly adventuristic policies, have on the one hand placed the repressed people of Pakistan in the flaming furnace of the many-structured economy, political and economic dependence on imperialism, a declining wage level, plague, illiteracy, early mortality and an absence of social democracy; on the other hand, by imposing monopolies "from above," they are imposing a superstructure ("superstructure" here has a special meaning) on the undeveloped economy of this oppressed people and are thereby pursuing their filthy, repressive goals which are expressed by the maximum pillage of added value in the country and the region and in particular the preservation of their military and economic bases in the Persian Gulf. The basis of the shameless aggression, the sending of arms and the infiltration of Pakistani militia and spies against the glorious April revolution--also on the part of Pakistani reaction--lies in this very essence

These monopolies, which have been put in movement "from above," have a firm bond and are in solid collusion with international plundering monopoly capital, are forming a base for imperialist aggression and a counterrevolutionary headquarters adjacent to our country in order to thwart the political awakening and revolt of the fraternal people of Pakistan against reaction and imperialism and to crush all forms of revolutionary movement and activity in the region.

The people running the four local monopolies in Pakistan, having gradually washed the blood of hundreds of thousands of noble, innocent scions of the people of Bangladesh from their hands, enjoy great, boundless wealth; reliable international statistics and figures show that these local monopolies have 66 percent of the industrial capital of Pakistan, 79 percent of the assets of its insurance companies, and 80 percent of its total banking

capital under their control through 20 financial groups. Just one of these monopolies controls and runs 20 large Pakistani companies.

The retention and preservation of such great capital, which is intermixed with plundering international capital, the intense exploitation of the people, and the severe concentration of wealth in the hands of the local Pakistani monopolies and world imperialism are innately contradictory, in root and branch, with the interests and the revolutionary movement of the people of Pakistan and the region. It is for this reason that these monopolies and black Pakistani reaction have from the very outburst of the inexorable April revolution, made every effort and have trained treasonous and fugitive elements to stint no direct armed attacks on the borders of revolutionary Afghanistan. Right now they are deeply engaged in the military training of fugitives, traitors and opportunists.

The screaming and wailing of reactionary circles in Pakistan, America, China, Egypt and Britain bearing on the arrival of limited forces from the peace-loving country of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan, which took place in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, with the purpose of defending against foreign intervention in our country, is nothing more than an excuse for deceiving world opinion and concealing the identity and the intensity of their bloody attacks against the great April revolution and its enormous historic accomplishments, which have placed world imperialism's interests in the region in danger.

Otherwise, it is plain that American imperialism is now imposing hundreds of thousands of its mercenary troops on the shoulders of the oppressed peoples of the third world in addition to thousands of aggressive military bases in the capitalist world.

Barbarous American and English imperialism, which claim to be striking a blow for the friendship of our people, in reality have subjected their basic interests to aggression and cannot hide and conceal from the eyes of the world the bloody stains which they placed on the shameful pages of their political history through direct intervention in the domestic affairs of Turkey, Vietnam, Lebanon, Thailand, Indonesia, Greece, Egypt and Bangladesh respectively, in the years 1947-54, 1958, 1967 and 1971, along with dozens of other bloody interventions in the internal affairs of a large number of Asian and African countries. These dominating aggressors, and the other circles of world imperialism, have not formed unholy alliance against the glorious April revolution by chance; rather, the overall power and identity of imperialism, in one of its five organs, demands that a struggle take place everywhere against work, freedom, peace and social democracy and that they must be attacked on behalf of the international capitalist hell. Sending spies to repress peoples and revolutionary events from there to the ends of the world, /sending/ the mercenary Pakistani forces, the dispatch of Chinese and American arms, aggression on the borders and the unrelenting commission of sabotage by people who have sold out their country in our beloved land Afghanistan have a class identity and

their objective is to be considered one of preventing the advancement of the glorious April revolution and its revolutionary influence in the continued movement of national and democratic forces in the region and the world. Otherwise, burning up the national wealth and the holy book of Islam and killing dozens of children under the protection of their innocent mothers and fathers shares no common ground with the basic interests of the people and the defense of their rights.

Bloodsucking imperialism has engaged in various tricks and intrigues every place it has fanned flames and hypocritically raised the slogan of defending the toilers of that country. However, everywhere the bloody heels of that role have made their stride, in the place of peace, freedom and democracy, the blood and bones of noble toiling people have been dragged into the flames.

The brave people of Afghanistan, and in their forefront the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, believe that, in accordance with the law of social perfection, neither the gathering together of groups of saboteurs and counterrevolutionaries in Afghanistan nor the shameless military aggression will be able to turn back the forward-racing wheel of history and our revolution and impose feudalism in its death agony on the wounded shoulder of our people and country again. The glorious April revolution is in movement, along its tempestuous course toward perfection. Let the rogues and hirelings of imperialism conspire and gnash their teeth. We are moving forward, forward!

11887

CSO: 4906

'BIGGEST ALLOCATION' FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Kabul ANIS in Dari 21 Feb 80 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] Along with the victorious development of 6 Jedi [27 December], which set the eternal and magnificent Thawr [20 April-20 May] Revolution on its true and basic course and secured the vast resources for all of the people of our country in order that they might enjoy a life of peace, happiness, and tranquillity, dramatic and beneficial changes also have taken place in the field of training and education and the facilities that are providing opportunities for our youth to continue their higher studies and vocational training.

Since the people are the basis and focus of all development programs, every plan for serving the people and for raising their level of awareness and knowledge is being implemented. Now, the doors of the schools and institutions of higher learning are open for hundreds of thousands of this country's children and youths in order that they might pursue their training in the field of their choice, commensurate with their own talents and the needs of their society.

Based on the Governments policy, which is to pave the way for higher education for all of the youths of the country, an effort has been made in the new academic year to provide opportunities for as many as possible of the children of our noble and hardworking people to participate in the universities and higher institutions of training. It is for this same reason that, of the 14,789 applicants for the competitive test, 14,389 [sic] people have been accepted as follows: 3,000 people in various colleges of Kabul University; 640 people in the Polytechnic Institute; 481 people in Nangarhar University; and 9,368 people in institutions of higher training in the fields of teaching, accounting, agriculture, and communications, and in advanced public health institutes. This enormous figure is unprecedented in the history of the universities and institutions of higher learning in our country.

As a developing country, Afghanistan has a dire need for determined children with the will and knowledge to carry out rapidly, soundly, solidly and courageously its country's job of construction and development.

Although, during the many years when the regimes attached to Imperialism were in power, no beneficial work took place on behalf of the people and the country, now that the children of this land possess political power and are constructing their own fate and the fate of their country, they consider the progress of their beloved homeland their great and important historical and national mission.

Of course, service to the people and service to the country require an abundance of revolutionary awareness and modern knowledge, because, to quote a well-known proverb, "Knowledge is Power." Any society that has informed, wise, and intelligent people also will enjoy every kind of power needed to develop and progress. We are adorning a generation of our country's youth with the decorations of knowledge and wisdom, because, by this means, they will be better equipped always to make the country flourish and prosper.

The acceptance of thousands of our country's youths and children in the schools and institutions of higher learning is clear evidence of the sincerity, faith and loyalty of the leadership of the revolution concerning the prosperity of our people and the progress and advancement of our homeland. Moreover, 14,389 new participants is a large and unprecedented figure for the institutions of higher learning, and the histories of our country's universities and institutions of higher learning do not reflect such a figure. Without doubt, any step that is taken by the government of the people for the welfare and comfort of the people also will be unprecedented and unparalleled; thus, right now, we are witnessing manifestations of a glorious future for our society, manifestations in which a flourishing and prosperous Afghanistan will be the homeland of free, tranquil, and happy people.

8514

CSO: 4906

NEW BILL MAKES RULINGS FOR CONSCRIPTION FAIRER FOR CITIZENS

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Mar 80 p 3

[Article by Kamil Mursi: "Lowering the Maximum Conscription Age to 31 Years Instead of 35; Reducing the Period of Compulsory Service for Professionals and Memorizers of the Koran"]

[Text] At a meeting today to be chaired by Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, the ministerial Services Committee will discuss the new military and national service bill, which contains advantages and rulings which will achieve fairness and equal opportunity for all citizens obliged to perform military and national service.

It lowers the maximum age for conscription to 31 years instead of 35, provides facilities for students at all levels of education to work for the government and the public and private sectors and to travel overseas during school vacations, and considers the conscription deferment certificate a justification for temporary employment.

The law permits reducing by a maximum of 6 months the period of service for ordinary conscriptees who have professions needed by the armed forces as well as those who have memorized the Koran. It provides that the crime of evading conscription shall be considered a dishonorable crime. It also sets a 6-month transition period for applying its rulings once it is issued.

The advantages of the new law, whether for the armed forces personnel infrastructure or for the young men obliged to perform service, can be summarized as follows.

1. It guarantees providing the armed forces with its manpower requirements in quantity and quality, so as to ensure a high degree of efficiency for the active forces and after that an adequate reserve for mobilization.
2. It reduces the maximum age for conscription to 31 instead of 35 years, while retaining the present limitations on deferring conscription in various stages of education, including the al-Azhar University, until the age of 30, so that graduates doing higher studies can complete them before joining the armed forces to perform their compulsory service.

3. It retains the existing 1-year conscription period for highly-qualified people, and increase it by 6 months for persons of average qualifications, making it 2 years, while retaining the existing 3-year period of compulsory service for ordinary conscripts and reducing it to only 2 years for people who have memorized the Koran. It grants professionals in those specializations needed by the armed forces who are ordinary conscripts a 6-month reduction in the period of compulsory service.

4. It grants to conscripts with average qualifications, during the last 6 months of their service, a comprehensive bonus equal to the first salary grade paid to colleagues with the same qualifications who are appointed to the government, so that they will not be hurt materially by the increase in their period of service to 2 years.

5. In most cases it retains temporary and final exemptions now in effect, while drawing up rules to ensure that those who actually deserve it receive this exemption, so as to ensure the filling of existing breaches, in particular those cases where there is manipulation of the exemption given because of the mother's divorce, for the purpose of illegitimately obtaining an exemption.

6. It arranges the immediate performance of compulsory service by university and intermediate institute graduates right after their graduation--as far as possible--and reduces the time gap between the conscription of the first and the last groups of graduates in any given school year.

Main Features

The bill refers to the principal features of the new law, which can be summarized as follows.

1. The national (public) service bill is imposed on all females over the age of 18.

2. Service in national organizations can be performed by men and women according to the public service law, and conditions for this are to be outlined by cabinet decree, which will determine which groups must perform what kinds of service. The period of service in these organizations is 1 year.

3. The law permits reducing the period of service of ordinary conscriptees who have professions required by the armed forces by at most 6 months off the 3-year period, in order to encourage these professionals, and in consideration of the resulting savings in the training and education periods, the possibility of immediately utilizing their expertise, and the savings in training materials and equipment.

4. The bill requires service in national organizations by those individuals in excess of the armed forces' requirements who have spent 3 years on call,

those excused from military service by decree of the Defense Minister, and those finally exempted from military service.

5. All cases of final exemption, and most cases of temporary exemption, shall be retained, since they are given only to the sole supporter of sisters married to husbands unable to earn a living. The bill also abolishes the paragraph providing for exempting the individual from military or national service if it is proven that he was granted this exemption before completing the period of compulsory service because of his father's age. This is because in most cases this exemption is temporary, and he will be called up for conscription a second time to complete his period of service. The abolition of this clause will take care of the phenomenon of deferment because of the father's having reached the age of 60, making the individual the sole support for his mother and sisters.

6. It exempts the sole supporter of the widowed or divorced mother, on the condition that this divorce occurred at least 3 years before the son reached conscription age.

7. The bill introduces an entire article pertaining to deferring conscription because of studies, which determines the maximum limit for deferment because of studies, so as to reduce the need to subsequently amend the text of the law and to minimize the issuance of ministerial decrees deferring the conscription of students at recently established schools. In other words, the deferment is not limited to certain schools or institutes, but pertains to the period of study for each stage of education.

8. The bill obliges students to present themselves to the conscription and mobilization districts within 30 days of the expiration of the reason for deferment, so that steps to conscript them can be taken, instead of their being notified by registered letter.

9. The bill gives the state's consuls overseas, or whoever is acting for them, the power of final decision in requests for deferment for study reasons, with respect to overseas residents. The consuls must inform the proper conscription and mobilization district immediately. Under the present law, this right is limited to deferring service for university studies only.

10. The law permits the establishment, at the conscription and mobilization districts in the governorates, of military medical councils to medically examine the applicants during the examination stage, to determine their suitability for military service and their medical classification.

The bill permits submitting medically fit and unfit individuals to a higher medical committee composed of specialists from outside the conscription apparatus, to medically examine those individuals a second time to confirm their fitness for enlistment in military service.

11. According to the bill, the indication of the examination date on the military card is tantamount to a notice to the individual to attend, and if he does not present himself on the day specified on the card, he will be considered a draft evader and the punishments for evasion will be applied to him.

12. The new law provides for dealing with cases of unregistered individuals from those who don't have an identity card or those who don't present a birth certificate, with the intention of evading military service, by referring them to the military medical council in their conscription district to determine their age and draft treatment according to what they are entitled to by law.

13. The bill requires individuals to inform the conscription district in case their job or place of residence changes, and gives a grace period of 1 month to do so, instead of the 2 weeks provided by the present law, in order to give a greater grace period in view of the punishment for non-notification provided in the law.

14. The steps for conscription have been developed and simplified, and some steps of the examination stage can be eliminated, so that the agencies which draw up the conscription plans can enroll the required number of people in the allotted time, and so that matters can be facilitated for the citizens.

15. The bill has adopted the basic principle that the armed forces should fill their needs from volunteers first of all, on the condition that volunteers to the police or administrations of a military nature perform their military service first, before approval is given to volunteer for those agencies.

The bill does not permit conscription of volunteers who are discharged from service for any of the various reasons for discharging volunteers as decreed by the Defense Minister. It also provides for conscripting volunteers whose service was terminated because of failure in studies, by compulsorily conscripting them for the established period, provided that in such a case the period of studies not completed successfully is not figured into the period of military service.

16. The bill exempts females who volunteer for military service from serving in national organizations, as is the case with other individuals who perform military service.

17. The bill allows a reduction in the 9-year reserve period according to the size of the armed forces, provided that the reduction be decreed by the Minister of Defense.

18. The bill allows calling up reservists for training purposes for a period of no more than 8 weeks. Reservists will be deprived of their

financial remunerations for any period of absence during call-up periods, in order to eliminate evasion or delay of reserve duty.

Evading Examination or Conscription

Rules were formulated with respect to evading the examination stage or conscription, so as to eliminate evasion while taking care to differentiate between evasion for some overpowering excuse and premeditated evasion, with the following considerations.

1. Whoever enlists in service within 3 months of the date of his call-up, or the date his reason for exemption or deferment expires, will be conscripted for an additional year, which can be lifted. Whoever evades and enlists in service after 3 months will be conscripted for an additional year which cannot be lifted. This ruling will also be applied to whoever conceals his educational qualifications, reading and writing ability, occupation or profession when he is conscripted; he will be enlisted for an extra year which cannot be lifted.
2. Individuals in excess of the armed forces' requirements will be placed on call for a maximum of 3 years, and they cannot be conscripted after the end of this period. The existing law permits keeping them on call until the age of 35.
3. The bill permits calling up those who have reached the maximum age for deferment for study reasons. Those in the second part of this stage can be deferred until the end of the school year. They can also be placed on call until the end of December of the year they obtain their qualification, which enables them to enroll in universities if they fulfill the coordination requirements. This will achieve equal treatment for them all.
4. The bill also calls for suspending the worker whose conscription situation has not been decided, and gives him a grace period of 60 days after which a decree dismissing him from his post or job will be issued.
5. It is not allowed to refuse to appoint a temporary exemptee or one whose conscription situation has not been definitely determined.
6. The bill considers evasion of conscription a dishonorable crime until the age of 31 years, punishable by 3 year's imprisonment and a 500 to 1,000 Egyptian pound fine. This is in order to eliminate draft evasion and to instill the proper respect for the rulings of the military and national service law.
7. The bill calls for a 6-month transition period for applying the rulings of this law once it is issued. Thus everyone who is over 31 years of age as of the day this law goes into effect and who has evaded conscription without an excuse will be subject to prosecution for draft evasion.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION OFFICIAL REPORTS ON JOINT PROJECTS, FOREIGN CURRENCY

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Mar 80 p 4

[Article: "Jamal al-Nazir Reports that This Year Egypt's Foreign Currency Revenues Will be US \$7.5 Billion"]

[Text] Minister of State for Economic Cooperation Jamal al-Nazir has announced that Egypt's foreign currency revenues will amount to US \$7.5 billion this year, in income from petroleum, the Suez Canal, tourism and transfers from Egyptians working abroad. He said that this year's yearly growth rate will exceed 10 percent.

At a press conference he held yesterday for world press and news agency correspondents at the fairgrounds at Nasr City, Jamal al-Nazir said that Egypt was able to deal with the payment budget deficits of past years in such a way as to ensure that there won't be any deficit in 1980.

The minister of state discussed the open door policy, saying that as of the end of last year the Investment Authority approved 1,073 joint projects with a total capital of 2.6 billion Egyptian pounds, total investment expenditures of 5.5 billion pounds, and providing 157,000 new job opportunities.

Jamal al-Nazir said that the capital of those projects which have actually entered the production stage amounts to 800 million pounds, that the investment expenditures to date amount to 1.1 billion pounds, and that 53,000 jobs have been provided.

He said that the capital of those projects under construction amounts to 920 million pounds, and that their investment expenditures have amounted to 2.3 billion pounds, providing 85,000 job opportunities. He pointed out that as of now, the percentage of Egyptian capital in joint projects approved by the Investment Authority is 60 percent, while participating European funds account for 15 percent, Arab funds 10 percent, American funds 2 percent, and other countries 8 percent.

With respect to dealing with Israeli businessmen, Jamal al-Nazir said, in reply to some journalists' questions, that Egypt is dealing with them just as it deals with any foreign state, in the context of normalizing relations between Egypt and Israel. Al-Nazir stressed that private Arab investment in Egypt has not been affected by the resolutions of the Arab boycott of Egypt, since this boycott is on the government level only. In this context, he said that Arab capital in joint projects in Egypt amounts to 260 million pounds.

In response to questions from foreign correspondents, Jamal al-Nazir said that the International Monetary Fund [IMF] is now looking for a way to settle the crisis of official Arab deposits in Egypt, and that negotiations are proceeding positively between Egypt and the IMF with respect to concluding an agreement whereby Egypt would get facilities to support the payments budget. He said that the Egyptian government has no intention of eliminating the public sector; in fact, it is working to strengthen and guide it.

8559

CSO: 4802

PARTY HOUSING PROJECT REPRESENTS NEW APPROACH TO SOLVING HOUSING CRISIS

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Karim Salim and Ahmad Gharib: "The National Party's Housing Project"]

[Text] The National Party is establishing a huge housing project, having chosen 6 October City, on the Cairo-al-Fayyum road, to construct the project on 1 million square meters. Utility work will be completed in 6 months, so that 20,000 housing units can be built as the first stage. The project will be self-financed and will be an integrated model for housing projects.

The project will include all kinds of housing, from economy to average to luxury, to make it easy for each citizen to obtain the right flat for his income.

The project's building materials will be granted the same customs exemptions as materials for new cities, and some local investors who build on the project's land will be exempt from all taxes for 6 years.

Whoever builds in the project will be entitled to take possession of or rent their buildings so as to realize a fair return not less than the interest on investment certificates or bank interest, which right now is about 10 percent.

Whoever builds economy housing on project land will be granted 1,200 Egyptian pounds as an allowance which does not have to be returned, will receive the land free of charge, and will be given subsidized cement and iron. Thus the owner will spend only 1,200 pounds on each unit.

Requests From al-Gizah Governorate

At present an agreement is being reached with al-Gizah Governorate, inasmuch as it is right next to the city, to meet the requests of those citizens who want to participate in the project.

It was essential for us to meet with Engr Husayn Ahmad 'Uthman, head of the National Party's housing committee which prepared this huge project, in order to get more details on how the construction is to be financed, the methods for renting or ownership, and how the citizens can participate in the construction each according to his desire to own one of the various kinds of dwellings.

Self-Efforts

Husayn 'Uthman began by stressing, "The idea for such a big project arose from a desire to avoid adding a new burden on the state, but getting all those who so desire to participate in its construction, as well as realize appropriate profits which would not constitute a burden on low-income residents.

"The National Party's housing committee is helping solve the housing crisis by using a new method. The committee's studies revealed that in past years there was a cumulative shortage of 1.5 million dwellings.

"In order to eliminate the housing crisis, 100,000 additional units must be built each year, to offset the deterioration of houses. In this manner the crisis could be solved in 15 years.

Types of Housing

"We are beginning the implementation of the 6 October project by constructing various types of housing--economy A, low-cost, economy B, average, above-average and luxury. Sixty percent of the units will be economy, 20 percent above-average and 20 percent luxury.

"The land for the project has been subdivided on the basis of 20 Egyptian pounds per meter for utilities. Economy housing will obtain land free of charge, and average housing will obtain the land at 20 percent of the cost for utilities, i.e. 4 pounds per meter. Above-average and luxury housing will obtain the land at its basic cost, with the addition of the price of the land for economy housing and the 20 percent cost for average housing.

"Economy flats, with areas of 30, 45 or 55 square meters, will cost 3,000 pounds. They will not realize a 10 percent return when rented at 8 or 10 pounds a month.

Non-Returnable Subsidy

"In order to encourage the private and national sectors to build this kind of housing, the owner will pay 1,200 pounds of the price of the flat and will be compensated for the rest of the cost by obtaining the land free and by getting subsidized iron and cement, as well as receiving another 1,200 pounds as a non-returnable subsidy from the project's finance fund.

"In this way we will be able to build a 5-story apartment house with 10 flats and realize a suitable return of 10 percent, just like investment certificates.

"The average housing unit will cost 4,000 pounds per 45, 55 or 65 square meter flat, after the owner obtains the land at 20 percent of its cost and receives subsidized cement and iron.

"In order to realize a return for the investor on this kind of housing, the monthly rent will have to be 25 pounds.

Set Rents

"In order to make things easy on the tenant, he must not have to pay more than 18 pounds per month, which is equivalent to a third of his average salary, assuming that the average wages nationwide are 54 pounds.

"At that time, the owner will be compensated for the balance of the rent by the fund for a period of 8 years, so as to bring the rent he receives up to 25 pounds. This period of time is sufficient for the tenant's wages to rise enough to pay the full rent.

"The above-average housing will cost from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds per 70, 80 or 90 square meter flat. This will be rented at its actual cost so as to realize a fair return for the investor.

"As for luxury housing, the owner can dispose of it through sale or rent, and in both cases the project's fund will receive 20 percent of the proceeds in order to subsidize the construction of economy A and B units.

Sources of Financing

"The project fund's budget will be 93 million pounds, consisting of state support, the price of the land for above-average and luxury housing, and 15 million pounds in loans from the Building Cooperatives Authority.

"For the project to succeed, the private sector, individuals and contractors must build the housing.

"The state will devote itself to providing utilities and building materials, and building administrative buildings, installations, plants and institutes.

"The housing built by the National Party's housing committee--this project--will observe the mutual agreements called for by Islam, and 70 percent of the units will be allocated for rent and 30 percent for whoever wants to own them."

UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS, NARCOTICS ROUNDED UP IN TWO AREAS

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYA in Arabic 14 Mar 80 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-wahhab al-Yirqani: "Purging the al-Birkah Area of Criminals--Arrest of 106 Fugitives from Justice--33 Kilograms of Narcotics Ready for Smuggling Seized"]

[Text] The security forces' campaign to purge the al-Birkah and al-Kuthban areas adjacent to 10 Ramadan City of dangerous elements, thieves and suspicious persons has been successful.

Acting on directives from Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il to purge and eliminate crime centers, First Assistant Minister for Public Security Affairs Maj Gen Hasan Abu-Basha drew up an intensified plan to restore safety to the al-Birkah and al-Kuthban areas adjacent to Cairo, al-Qalyubiyah and al-Sharqiyah Governorates.

Maj Gen Abu-Basha held a meeting attended by Central Security Director Maj Gen Ahmad Shawqi Hijazi, Public Security Director Maj Gen Husayn al-Samahi, the directors of criminal investigation in these governorates, and Narcotics Combat Director Maj Gen Sami As'ad. The necessary plan was drawn, up, along with the alternatives needed to meet various contingencies.

At zero hour, which was set for 0400 AM on 9 March, the joint forces, numbering 1,500 officers and men from Central Security, the criminal investigation branches, the narcotics bureau and Public Security, were able to surround the al-Birkah area and the adjacent al-Kuthban dune area. These forces, working in groups supplied with supporting technical equipment, began carrying out their job with extraordinary speed and high efficiency, in order to achieve the goals of the campaign. It continued until 1600 the same day, under the supervision of Assistant Minister Maj Gen Faruq al-Husayni and Public Security Director Maj Gen Husayn al-Samahi. The campaign resulted in the arrest of 13 convicted persons who had fled from justice, including 11 who had been convicted of crimes committed in Cairo, al-Qalyubiyah and al-Sharqiyah. Among them was the defendant in the case of the murder of the assistant interior minister's driver in the East Delta area, whose corpse was discovered after the suspect stole the taxi which he had been driving.

Three machine guns, 18 pistols of various types, and large quantities of ammunition for the confiscated weapons were seized.

Also seized were 67 blocks of hashish weighing 33 kg, which were hidden underground ready for smuggling to residential areas.

The forces were also able to arrest 93 registered dangerous elements and suspicious persons, and legal measures were taken against them.

8559

CSO: 4802

PRODUCE SPOILAGE PROBLEM REVIEWED, SOLUTIONS OFFERED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Mar 80 p 9

[Article by 'Adil Shafiq: "270 Million Pounds Worth of Vegetable Crops Lost Each Year"]

[Text] Vegetables are considered one of the most important agricultural crops which guarantee food security, since they are one of the main sources of carbohydrates and protein in addition to salts and vitamins. This is especially so in developing countries because vegetables are relatively cheap for the consumer when compared to other food sources.

One of their most significant characteristics is their increased loss and spoilage in post-harvest stages, especially under the primitive handling conditions existing in Egypt. In 1978 about one million feddans in Egypt were planted with vegetables, giving an estimated yield of about 7.8 million tons, with a monetary value of more than 400 million pounds.

The Agriculture Ministry's Director of Vegetable Marketing and Export Research Dr 'Atawah Ahmad 'Atawah says that the total loss in vegetable crops, including natural loss from evaporation and respiration in addition to spoilage making them unsuitable for sale or consumption, amounts to between 50 and 60 percent, depending on the nature of the crop and the distance from the production regions to the more important centers for consumption or preparation for export. If this percentage is translated into figures, we find that the loss in national income from vegetable production varies from 250 million to 270 million Egyptian pounds a year.

This ratio can be lowered to only 20 or 25 percent, which would permit an increase in income from 100 to 150 million pounds a year. In particular, the ways to reduce the loss are simple and can be easily carried out, either by the vegetable producer or by those who deal with the vegetables in post-harvest stages, whether local marketing or export.

Dr 'Atawah mentions that the most significant damage which occurs to fruit crops is concentrated in several stages, beginning with harvesting. This is the first step in spoilage, for the fruit which receives machine damage

is usually subject to rapid deterioration and spoilage in subsequent stages. The time of harvest'ng also plays a principal role in the subsidiary value of the vegetable crops, and in how long they remain fit for marketing and display.

Scientific studies have also proven that the packaging now used causes machine damage to 15 to 25 percent of the produce.

Present means of transport play a large part in the increased rate of produce spoilage, and the practice of tying vegetable crates onto trucks with ropes causes a great deal of damage to the fruit, as does the roughness of roads in production areas.

Also, present storage methods, which are primitive and are carried out under ordinary air conditions, with no attention given to the size of the warehouses or the quality of ventilation, or to periodic examination to remove produce afflicted with storage diseases in order to limit their spread, lead to an increase in the rate of vegetable loss and spoilage.

Dr 'Atawah says that it is possible to reduce the loss ratio from 50 to 60 percent to 20 to 25 percent by the following methods:

1. Evaluating imported and locally-derived species from the standpoint of their marketing value and how long they remain fit for consumption and sale;
2. Developing harvesting methods, which must be based on skilled labor, as well as advising that harvesting be done in the morning, when the temperature is moderate and the humidity has dispersed, as well as taking care not to expose the produce to the direct rays of the sun or to rain;
3. Determining the ideal degree of ripeness at which the crop should be harvested; and
4. Determining grades for each crop and prices for each grade, to avoid sorting and close examination.

As for fruit, Engr Muhammad Shawqi Raghib, a horticulturalist, says that its acreage amounts to about 320,000 feddans, of which 240,000 feddans are fruit-bearing and produce about 1.5 million tons. Citrus acreage accounts for 60 percent of the bearing fruit acreage in Egypt, and its production amounts to 55 percent of Egypt's total fruit production.

With fruit crops in particular, the loss ratio is rising not only in developing countries but in advanced nations like the United States, where in Florida the loss ratio for citrus fruits varied from 15 to 30 percent in 1975.

Experiments have proven that the best ways to reduce the rate of loss and spoilage in fruit crops is to use special harvesting shears suitable for all types of fruits, to use lightweight baskets which can be carried and transported easily to harvest fruits which are out of reach, and to not fill the crates up entirely but to leave a space of about 10 centimeters, and to take care to collect the fruit after the humidity has dispersed, especially those fruits collected early in the season.

In general, attention must be given to harvesting and packaging the fruit early in the season, since the fruits which are harvested at their peak of growth and ripeness can be shipped for longer distances than the same fruit harvested at the end of the season.

It has also been observed that most exporters who contract with packing stations harvest the fruit without sufficient care, and many of the collectors let the fruit fall directly on the ground, which affects its rind and therefore increases the amount of fruit separated out inside the packing station, which amounts to 40 percent or more, especially at the end of the season.

Engr Muhammad Shawqi emphasizes the importance of developing the existing transport methods, as well as the chemical cleaning and treating of fruits after harvesting.

8559

CSO: 4802

NEW EFFORTS TO BE MADE TO PROMOTE FAMILY PLANNING

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 8

[Article by Bahirah Mukhtar: "Supreme Council for Population and Family Planning Decides to Establish Publicity Units for Family Planning in the Local Councils"]

[Text] Mrs Jihan al-Sadat attended yesterday's meeting of the Supreme Council for Population and Family Planning, chaired by Minister of Health Dr Mamduh Jabr. The council decided to establish publicity units on the level of local councils in the governorates, and to expand the population and development project to all the governorates, with financing from the AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (AID). Furthermore, the council decided to support popular societies and provide them with doctors and social statisticians, and to start work 7 days instead of 3 days a week as an experiment in 20 popular units.

The council reviewed the national publicity plan and international assistance received for family planning, and decided to hold a joint meeting this September with the Egyptian government and the international authorities which are financing the national family planning project, to discuss the new, principal concepts which must be followed in Egyptian family planning projects, and to form consultative committees on the national level to study Egypt's needs and to prepare the basic statements which will be offered at this meeting. The council also expressed its gratitude to the health minister for his ministry's efforts in serving family planning, which will have a great influence in the future.

The council also reviewed the publicity plan prepared by the Supreme Information Committee, headed by Minister of State for Republican Presidency Affairs Mansur Hasan, to which Head of the Information Authority Safwat al-Sharif contributed. It decided to organize a new publicity campaign this July, after evaluating the present campaign, which will end in April.

Participating in the discussions at the conference were Head of the Mobilization and Statistics Agency Jamal 'Askar and the governors of Bani Suwayf, al-Isma'iliyah and Port Said Governorates.

In a press conference at the end of the council's session, Head of the Family Planning Agency Dr 'Aziz al-Bandari stated that the publicity campaign which began 3 weeks ago will continue as part of a comprehensive plan, and will be developed so as to reach all the people. The ultimate target is the Egyptian in the village, where lies the population problem.

The Health Ministry prepared a study which proved that 97 percent of the publicity must be directed at the public through study groups and personal contact, since it has been proven that the press, radio and television has a mere 3 percent part.

8559

CSO: 4802

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO ARMED FORCES COMPANY

Cairo AL-WAQA'I' AL-MISRIYAH [The Egyptian Minutes--Daily Supplement of the Official Gazette] in Arabic No 49 27 Feb 80 p 7

[Decree No 127 of 1979 of the Ministry of Defense and War Production]

[Text] The Minister of Defense and War Production, after perusing Law No 60 of 1971, amended by Law No 111 of 1975, which contains rulings pertaining to public sector companies; and Law No 79 of 1975 promulgating the social insurance law; and Law No 48 of 1978 promulgating the statute for public sector employees; and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production's Decree No 85 of 1976 changing the State Economic Organization for the Armed Forces into the State Economic Company for the Armed Forces; and with the approval of the company's board of directors at its meeting of 16 August 1979 for the nomination of Muhammad Muhammad Isma'il Musa for promotion to director general; and in accordance with the company's employment budget for 1979; decrees the following.

Article 1. Muhammad Muhammad Isma'il Musa is promoted to the post of director of the general department for financial affairs of the State Economic Company for the Armed Forces, with the grade of director general, receiving the financial allocation of 1,320 to 1,920 Egyptian pounds a year, as of 1 September 1979.

Article 2. The competent authorities are to implement this decree.

Issued on 8 Shawal 1399 A.H. (30 August 1979 A.D.) by Lt Gen Kamal-al-Din Hasan 'Ali.

8559

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

POPULATION STUDIES INSTITUTE--The board of directors of the Workers Cultural Organization of the General Federation of Labor Unions is studying a project to establish a new institute subordinate to the organization to specialize in population studies and family planning. The organization's vice president, Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid, said that the new institute will be established in cooperation with the International Labor Organization and the UN Fund for Population Studies, which has approved providing the project with initial aid amounting to US \$350,000. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 8] 8559

SUEZ HOUSING INVESTMENT FUND--Governor of Suez Hilmi Badr announced that 15 parcels of vacant land have been appropriated, and two of them, which have full utilities and which cover an area of 2,000 square meters on the Suez-Port Tawfiq road, have been chosen for the construction of 120 above-average housing units which will be offered for sale to investors. The governor said that the other parcels of vacant land will be put up for sale in open bidding. Out of the proceeds from the above-average housing and the sale of the land, a housing investment fund for the governorate will be established. This fund will finance the construction of 50 average housing units consisting of 2 or 3 bedrooms and a living room, costing 425,000 pounds, and another 100 economy units costing 550,000 pounds. All these flats will be completed this year. [Text] [Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 7] 8559

AL-GIZAH CITY PLANNING--It has been decided to prepare a new development plan for al-Gizah City, to expand the city limits and incorporate some desert and agricultural areas, in order to break out of the city's natural limits--the Nile and the archeological area--so as to meet the population increase. The housing committee of the National Party of al-Gizah Governorate has reached an agreement with a French consulting firm for drawing up the city's new plan. The agreement was signed by Governor 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Azam and a representative from the French consulting firm, which approved for this purpose a loan of 5 million Egyptian pounds. Denmark also authorized a loan of 500,000 pounds for studying the cheapest ways of solving al-Gizah's housing crisis. Assistant Secretary of the al-Gizah National Party and Vice President of the People's Assembly Abu-al-Khayr'

'Anbar Amin said that the first phase, the expansion of the city limits, will be completed in 6 months, to be followed by utility network planning. Working with the French consulting firm will be Drs Muhammad Rida Kamil, Mustafa al-Ghamrawi and Zakiyah al-Shafi'i, all members of the party's housing committee. He said that the new plan will include the sub-standard housing build on farm land, because of which 6,000 violation citations have been issued. [Text] [Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 7] 8559

CSO: 4802

SOVIETS PLAN TO COMPLETE 'COLLECTION'

Paris NAM'E-YE RUZ in Persian 11 Mar 80 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr, President of the Republic, writes in an editorial of the ENGHELAB-E ESLAMI that the expansion of the crisis between Iran and America will only benefit the internal and external enemies of the Islamic Republic. According to Bani-Sadr it is in the interests of the Soviets for the "hostages' quarrel" to continue, so that they might consolidate the occupation of Afghanistan by their army and then turn their attention to Iran. "It is my belief that I have expressed in my speech of yesterday. While the first free legislative elections are going on and while the Red Army of occupation is defiling the fraternal Moslem land of Afghanistan with the boots of its soldiers and chains of its tanks, it is being endeavored to concentrate the whole attention of the nation on the question of 50 American hostages a part of whom was undoubtedly engaged in espionage on Iran. Iranian revolution has deprived America of power in this country and initiated the removal of American influence from the area of the Persian Gulf and from the Islamic World. This has been a great victory for Iran and the Islamic people. However, this victory over one of the superpowers has also become a victory for another superpower, in the sense that while the Soviets have lost Egypt and America Iran, America has obtained Egypt and the Soviets got Afghanistan, and thus in this chess play, while there was no change in the number of pieces on the chessboard, the overall position of Soviets has been strengthened, for the presence of the Soviets in Egypt and America in Iran was not military, whereas presence of the Soviets in Afghanistan is military, and the masters of Kremlin will be able at any time, within a few hours, to occupy Iran, whom at present they encircle as an oil reservoir, and by moving their army to the shores of the Persian Gulf they can bring under their control the oil resources of that region. If the victory of the revolution is to be a victory over America and a defeat versus Russia, then we can say that the revolution of Iran has been victorious in the external and internal field alike. But if the victory of Iranian revolution were to mean keeping away both the superpowers from Iran and other neighbor Islamic countries, in that case this incomplete victory with defeat versus Soviets might be considered as gradually being changed to [a complete] defeat [of both].

"America has been defeated in Iran and for many years will be unable to be up in arms against our nation. At present the time has come about to solve as soon as possible the question of hostages so that Iran may turn attention of its foreign policy to the expansionism of Russia that is subjecting to her colonial imperialism one after another our brother neighbors that share our religion, history and even language. After Azerbaijan and Turkestan and Tadzhikistan and Uzbekistan, and now Afghanistan, Russian needs only Iran and Pakistan to complete her collection."

1015

CSO: 4906

FINNISH BUILDERS ASK THEIR GOVERNMENT'S AID TO COVER LOSSES

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 13 Mar 80 p 27

[Article: "Builders Tire of Waiting for Their Pay; Submit Statement to Vientitakuulaitos for Iran Contract"]

[Text] The Finnish firms that built residences for the bodyguard personnel of the shah of Iran have now undertaken to recoup their losses from the Vientitakuulaitos [an export insurance branch of the Finnish government]. This will be the first time that this establishment finds it necessary to recompense a housing export risk. The amount applied for is believed to range between 50 million and 100 million markkas.

Four Finnish firms were to build a total of 3,500 residences for the non-commissioned officers of the shah's bodyguard in Tehran. The Finn-Iran Construction Group (FIGG) construction consortium consists, with parity, of the Mattinen-Niemela Oy, Polar, Hartela, and Rakennus-Ruola.

The contract was awarded to the Finns in 1977, at which time it was announced as the second largest foreign contract at a value of 600 million marks. At present currency rates the value of the contract is about 800 million markkas.

Following the revolution in Iran, operations in Tehran have been at a standstill since the end of 1978. The Finnish builders were among the last to leave. At this time only the guards remain at the working sites. Tens of foreign construction projects currently stand idle in Iran.

General Manager A.M. Mattila of the Mattinen-Niemela Oy says that the operations reached about one fourth of completion before the interruption and that the mere starting of the operations entailed considerable expense. According to Mattila the Finnish firms did receive several tens of millions of markkas worth of compensation from Iran before it became impossible to continue operations.

"Counterparts Cannot Be Found"

In addition, the Iranian revolutionary government has compensated the builders by 200 million rials, which amount exceeds 10 million Finnish markkas. However, a simultaneous announcement prohibited the exporting of Iranian currency from the country. These funds therefore remain on account in Tehran.

According to Mattila the accounts receivable from Iran amount to about double the amount of the export guarantees. The Vientitakuulaitos and the Vientiluotto Oy may become liable for 50 million to 100 million markkas. The determination of amounts is difficult because this is the first time that export guarantee payments are being made to builders.

After the guarantees have been paid the accounts receivable become a matter between the Finnish and Iranian governments. The builders say that they are confident that the monies will eventually be paid to the Finnish Government after the situation becomes normal in Iran.

The Finnish builders have sought continued negotiations with the Iranians, but the problem has been that it is difficult, if not impossible, to find counterparts who have authority to make decisions. "Each section of the city has its own revolutionary council, and the one that has authority is the one that has the most ammunition," is a critical remark of the builders who have been in Tehran.

5955

CSO: 3107

PRO-MOSCOW ARAB PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Mar-4 Apr 80 p 6 LD

[Unattributed undated report]

[Text] Nasif 'Awwad, the Iraqi envoy who carried Iraq's invitation to the Arab people's conference to be held in Baghdad to discuss the national charter proposed by President Saddam Husayn, has told AL-MAJALLAH correspondent in Beirut that "Iraq has no objection to postponing discussion of the charter until the annual Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman in the fall if the convening of an extraordinary summit for this purpose is not possible at present."

However, he added, "What is important for Iraq now is the discussion of the national charter at the Arab people's conference."

It has been noticed that in their invitations to this conference the Iraqis have excluded the pro-Moscow communist parties, such as the Jordanian Communist Party and the Syrian Communist Party headed by Khalid Bakdash while they invited the party splinter group that split with Bakdash's party. They have also invited the Lebanese Communist Party on the grounds that "it has a national dimension."

It is worth noting that the Iraqi invitation to this conference has created a crisis between Iraq and Libya. Libya considers the invitation an attempt to undermine the Arab people's conference (whose general secretary is 'Umar al-Hamidi) which it considers to be the only Arab people's conference. They Syrians support the Libyans in this regard.

On the other hand, diplomatic sources say that 'Abd al-Qawi Makkawi, leader of opposition in South Yemen which is opposed to Aden regime, has recently moved his headquarters from Cairo to Baghdad, where he has decided to take up residence. An Iraqi official has said that "the Iraqi Government has no objection to this as long as the Aden government gives asylum to the majority of the Iraqi Communist Party leaders opposed to Baghdad regime."

CSO: 4802

SENTENCES PASSED ON SPY NETWORK IN ADEN

Sentences Passed

Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Apr 80 LD/EA

[Text] The republic's supreme court this morning passed sentences on members of the espionage network connected with the Takriti clique in Iraq.

The Aden News Agency reports that the court preferred three charges against each of the 19 members of the network: betrayal of the homeland, propaganda hostile to the democratic nationalist regime in Democratic Yemen, and organized activity with intent to commit a crime.

These activities are proscribed by Articles 102, and 108, 109 and 266 of the Penal Code of 1976 and are punishable under the same articles.

The court examined the following exhibits: money and U.S. currency which the accused received through the Takriti clique's embassy in Aden; arms; publications and booklets hostile to the progressive regim in Democratic Yemen and the Arab and world liberation movements, and documents which proved irrefutably that these individuals were spying on various state sectors, as well as liberation movements based in Aden.

The network submitted its reports to the Takriti regime in Baghdad through the embassy in Aden.

The following sentences were passed: Amin Muhammad Ahmad 'Awn, Muhammad Ahmad Sayf, Muhammad Nasir Tahir and Abd-al-Rahim 'Abdullah--15 years on the first count and 10 years on the second and third counts, the sentences to run concurrently.

The second batch--Abd-al-Bari Muhammad Ahmad 'Awn, Yasin Muhammad Ahmad, Muhammad Abdullah al-Dhahab, 'Ali Sa'id (Miswaf), 'Abd al-Qawi (Tambash), Ahmad Haytham Salih, Muhammad Surur Hashid and Salim (Humti) Muhsin--10 [years] on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

The third batch--Abdullah Rashid Ahmad, Muhsin Salih 'Ali, Muhammad Salim Amir, Ahmad Salim Husayn, 'Ali Nasir 'Abdullah and Mahmud 'Aqil (Haydarah)--5 years on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

The Aden News Agency also reports that the court appointed six lawyers to defend the accused. The accused agreed that their interrogation and trial were conducted in accordance with the law.

Sentences Condemned

Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 4 Apr 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 April--A spokesman of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Yemen has denounced the sentences passed on 18 Ba'thist strugglers on false charges by the authorities in southern Yemen. He said that the sentences ranging between 5-15 years expose the latent rancor which the communist regime planted in southern Yemen harbors against the patriotic forces which are struggling for the freedom of southern Yemen and for Yemen's unity.

The spokesman affirmed that the Ba'thist strugglers against whom the unjust sentences were passed were subjected to the most savage psychological and physical torture in the detention camps where all the fascist methods created by the cliques of foreign experts were used.

The statement said: The suffering undergone by the Ba'thist strugglers truly expresses the bankruptcy of the agent and secessionist clique and clearly demonstrates the nobility of the Ba'th Party and the firmness and steadfastness of the strugglers in the terror jails in Aden.

The spokesman hailed our masses in southern Yemen who are standing fast denouncing the criminal deeds and ridiculing the Aden regime's farces and secret and sham trials of strugglers. He affirmed that the struggle will continue against the ruling clique on all levels until the triumph of our people's will--the will of justice and Arabism in southern Yemen.

The spokesman appealed to all the national, pan-Arab and progressive forces and all Arab and world national liberation movements to stand side-by-side with the Ba'thist strugglers in Aden's jails. He appealed to them to condemn the military sentences and demand the release of the Ba'thist strugglers and all the political detainees of the various national, patriotic and democratic groups who are in Aden's jails.

CSO: 4802

GROWTH OF OIL INDUSTRY REVIEWED

Growth Since Nationalization

Baghdad AL-NAFT WA AL-'ALAM in Arabic Jan 80 pp 20-21

[Article by D. Hafiz al-Tukumji of the Iraqi National Oil Company (INOC):
"A Glimpse of INOC"]

[Excerpts] INOC is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, production organizations in the Iraqi economy, be it in terms of the volume and diversity of its operations and activities in Iraq, the magnitude of its responsibilities, or the value of its oil production and its importance to the national economy and to current and future economic development plans. It is appropriate at the outset to remind our readers of the oil policy tasks set forth in the policy report issued by the Eighth National Conference of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (January 1974). INOC had the distinction of assuming the responsibility for the implementation of these tasks, which are as follows:

1. Consolidating full sovereignty over Iraq's foremost resource (oil) from all standpoints.
2. Completing the big oil projects within their allotted times.
3. Increasing oil production levels in reasonable ascending steps commensurate with our actual needs and our ability to realize substantial benefit from revenues derived from increased production. This is to serve our national and pan-Arab goals, to say nothing of assistance to friendly states in the Third World.
4. Conducting a general and accurate survey of our oil reserves, employing a large-scale technical and foreign effort to provide a total picture of our oil reserves, and making a rapid determination of the total true oil reserves in our country.

It is well known that the oil industry in Iraq operated and developed for decades as the interests of the foreign concessionaire oil companies dictated. During that phase, the oil industry was characterized, in short, by the following:

1. Planning of all oil operations in Iraq by the foreign oil companies in accordance with their interests. These operations included exploration for oil, development of wells and determination of the volume of investments. In most cases, these decisions were made at the expense of the Iraqi economy in general and the protection of our oil wealth in particular.
2. Control by the foreign oil companies of production and marketing, and, consequently, of the volume of financial revenues and the impact of these revenues on economic development.
3. Keeping undeveloped most of Iraqi lands subject to the concession--i.e., 99.5 percent of Iraq's territory. This froze Iraq's natural resources and prevented them from contributing to economic progress.
4. Limiting opportunities for Iraqi cadres and qualified individuals to assume important jobs or positions of responsibility in the oil industry.
5. Failure to incorporate the strategic oil industry into the Iraqi economy, developing this industry in isolation, and restricting the refining industry's output to a level which met the needs of domestic consumption.

"Direct investment" [undertaken by INOC at the behest of the Iraqi revolution] encompassed a large, diverse and integrated group of engineering, geological, geophysical operations and other operations in various areas of specialization and on various levels. It was necessary from the outset to give thought to planning the operations and developing time schedules to coordinate these operations so that they would yield results as quickly as possible and at a minimum cost.

Owing to the energetic and constant support provided by the leadership of the party and the revolution, and the fact that INOC was given top priority, the company was quickly able to overcome its material, financial and human difficulties. It succeeded in forming the necessary administrative and technical organizations at the level of competence and responsibility required by the immensity of the task, the magnitude of the operations, and the fact that the company's administrative and technical organizations (prior to nationalization and the merger of the organizations and cadres of the nationalized companies) included more than 1,500 office workers and 5,000 workers, most of them specialists or technicians in petroleum, geological and geophysical engineering, and other fields.

Our company's takeover of all oil operations in Iraq following the nationalization of the operations of the foreign oil companies was successfully completed. Responsibilities and operations grew. The company had to reexamine oil production policy as a whole in Iraq in accordance with the directives of the political leadership, on one hand, and the requirements of the liberated and advanced oil industry on the other. All Iraqi

capabilities and aptitudes were mobilized, and assistance was sought from foreign expertise on the basis of direct agreements or short-term service contracts for the performance of specific tasks. Presently, INOC is the country's authorized agency responsible for the operations of exploring for crude oil, recovering it, processing it, storing it and transporting it via pipelines and oil tankers.

The company currently has nine national seismic surveying teams outfitted with the latest equipment. Its national cadre is continuing exploration operations in all parts of the country and has made some encouraging discoveries.

INOC also possesses an advanced center for processing seismic data and preparing the completed charts which show the results of the seismic survey.

The company has several national teams to drill productive and developmental wells, and these teams are equipped with huge derricks and equipment operated by complete Iraqi cadres.

Connected with INOC is the Iraqi Oil Tankers Company [IOTC] which presently owns 15 crude oil tankers with capacities ranging from 35,000 to 155,000 tons and a combined capacity of 1,400,000 tons. IOTC is making progress in expanding its fleet and strengthening the national cadres working on board its tankers.

INOC has formed two organizations:

1. The General Organization for Northern Oil which carries out oil operations in northern Iraq.
2. The General Organization for Southern Oil which carries out oil operations in southern Iraq.

An organization has also been created for oil operations in central Iraq. INOC owns a huge network of oil pipelines which carry the oil to export terminals in southern Iraq (the ports of al-Bakr and Khawr al-'Umayyah) and export terminals outside Iraq. An extremely large project, the "strategic pipeline," has now been completed. This pipeline links Iraq's southern and northern oilfields, and has the dual capability of pumping from north to south or from south to north. This project has given the marketing operation great flexibility. In addition to its tapping of the north Rumaylah oilfield in three phases, the company has been able to develop and tap other oilfields such as the Nahran 'Umar field, the al-Labis field, Bazarkan, Abu Ghurab, Jambur al-Jadid and Fakkah. It is now developing new oilfields in preparation for tapping and exporting their oil.

Following this quick condensed survey of INOC, we can say that thanks to the support of the leadership of the party and the revolution, the liberal achievements of the company, and the enthusiasm, initiative and

excellence on the job the company has elicited from its many employees ranging from top engineering cadres down to various levels of workers, this recently established company has in a short time been able to establish a national, pan-Arab and international image for itself as a pioneering national oil company capable of releasing the latent energies of the Iraqi citizen and motivating him to attain great accomplishments commensurate with the requirements of the Iraqi economy to eliminate underdevelopment and create an advanced socialist society.

The most important principles presently applied by the company are as follows:

1. Long and medium-range planning of operations and energetic monitoring of implementation.
2. Formation of Iraqi cadres at the worksite and at the universities and oil institutes in Iraq as well as abroad.
3. Integration of the oil industry into the Iraqi economy, considering oil as a raw material, an energy source, or an important source for funding economic and social projects.
4. Completion of the process of oil and gas exploration in Iraq.
5. Development of production in accordance with the requirements and national and pan-Arab objectives of the economic development plan, and on the basis of the latest scientific methods of the oil industry.
6. Participation in the process of Arab economic integration through serious and active participation in Arab oil projects such as the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company, the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Company, and other joint Arab companies.

Accomplishments in 1979

Baghdad AL-NAFT WA AL-'ALAM in Arabic Jan 80 pp 22-24

[Article: "Giant Accomplishments Toward Establishing a Strong Industrial Base for the Oil Industry in Iraq"]

[Text] During 1979, the oil sector witnessed gigantic accomplishments which indicate that the oil sector in Iraq has reached an advanced and developed stage on the road to achieving the cultural development for which our fighting Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is striving.

One matter which attracts attention about 1979 is the fact that a large number of oil projects, even the giant ones, were implemented by the national technical cadres of the Iraqi oil industry through the direct [in contrast to prefabricated] implementation method. Perhaps this gives us a true indication of the ability of Iraqi cadres to implement complex

projects, as they did in the Nasiriyah-Kut oil products pipeline project, the project to expand the production capacity of the Basrah refinery, and other projects.

Direct Implementation Projects

The General Oil Projects Organization [formed by INOC] is one of the giant implementational organizations in the oil sector. It has made great strides in the implementation of projects during recent years. In 1979, the organization was able to implement numerous projects, using the direct implementation method. These projects were as follows:

--The project to tap the southern oilfield at Jabal Fakkah: This project was implemented in the record time of 10 months and was opened on 8 January 1979. It included construction of a gas separator station in the southern Jabal Fakkah oilfield.

--The Nasiriyah-Kut oil products pipeline: This is one of the most important projects implemented by the organization's national cadre, since it has saved enormous sums of money for the national economy. It is a branch of the Baghdad-Basrah oil products pipeline. Its length is 187 kilometers and it cost a total of 6 million dinars. The project was opened on 10 November 1979.

--The aviation fuel pipeline to Baghdad International Airport: This pipeline, which is 29 kilometers long, links the al-Dawrah refinery with Baghdad International Airport and will replace tank trucks in transporting aviation fuel. The project cost 550,000 dinars and was carried out through the direct implementation method.

--The gas and fluids pipelines to and from the petrochemical complex: This project included construction of three main pipelines. The first carries gas from the Khawr al-Zubayr plant to the petrochemical complex, the second carries dry gas in the petrochemical complex to the gas plant, and the third carries liquid hydrocarbons. The national cadres completed this project in the record time of 4.5 months at a cost of 450,000 dinars. It was opened on 11 October 1979.

--A project for two pipelines to carry fuel oil and crude petroleum to the al-Harithah power station: The goal of this project is to supply the al-Harithah power station with fuel oil and crude petroleum. The planning and implementation of the project was carried out by the organization's national cadre at a cost of 2.65 million dinars. It was opened on 11 October 1979.

The foregoing pertains to the projects which SOPO carried out through the direct implementation method, costing a total of 10.5 million dinars. The organization also supervised the implementation of the following prefabricated projects.

--The al-Muftiyah storage facility development project with wharf: This project was designed and supervised by the organization's national cadre. It cost 750,000 dinars and was opened on 11 October 1979. The project included service buildings, a workshop to maintain equipment and machines used in the transport and distribution of oil products and gas, a network of roads and paved yards for the storage of barrels of asphalt destined for export, and construction of concrete piers for docking tankers for petroleum products designated for export.

--A project for installations of the public distribution organization in al-Shu'aybah: This project, which cost a total of 1.2 million dinars and was opened on 11 October 1979, included construction of industrial buildings, installations for services and maintenance operations, a maintenance garage, and a garage for washing and lubricating vehicles and other equipment used in the transport of petroleum products and gas.

--A water injection project in the Rumaylah oilfields: This is a huge project aimed at maintaining production levels in the Rumaylah oilfields. The project is being implemented in three phases. Phase one was opened on 11 October 1979. The civil engineering work was performed by the Public Construction Contracting Company. Designs, surveys, and purchasing and assembling of materials and equipment were carried out by the Soviet organization TECHNOEXPORT. The General Oil Projects Organization is undertaking the purchase of pipes and equipment for the third phase of the project, in addition to direct supervision of the work. The cost of all three stages of the project is 65 million dinars.

The project includes a water filtration station in Karmat 'Ali which will pump water through two pipelines, one to the north Rumaylah oilfield and one to the south Rumaylah oilfield. These pipelines will be connected to an auxiliary pumping station and to a cluster of 10 water well pumping stations.

In addition to the preceding, there are 16 projects currently in the process of implementation at a combined cost of 906.1 million dinars. Eight of these projects are being carried out through the direct implementation method at a total cost of 29.95 million dinars, and six projects through the prefabricated construction method at a total cost of 837.8 million dinars. The most important of these are the southern gas project, the northern gas project, the northern refinery project, and two other prefabricated projects at a total cost of 31.736 million dinars.

Refining Projects

During 1979, the General Oil Refining and Gas Processing Organization [formed by INOC] completed a number of projects that have made an effective contribution to the development of the refining industry in Iraq. The organization is making steady progress toward the completion of huge new refineries to be opened in coming years. The organization's projects are as follows:

--Construction and start-up of the second refining unit at the al-Samawah refinery. The unit will have a capacity of 10,000 barrels [per day], bringing total capacity of the refinery up to 20,000 barrels per day.

--Construction of a plant to manufacture high-pressure containers and heat [transmission] units with a capacity of 1,200 to 1,600 tons per year.

--Construction and start-up of a project to double the production capacity of the Basrah refinery from 70,000 to 140,000 barrels of crude petroleum per day. This giant project, which was implemented by the organization's national cadres, is considered an object of pride for the oil industry in Iraq, because it is the first time that such a project has been implemented by a national technical cadre. Its cost was 13.75 million dinars, which is half the amount that the international companies wanted for implementing the project.

--Construction and start-up of the second refining unit at the Bayji refinery with a capacity of 10,000 barrels of crude petroleum per day, bringing total production capacity of the refinery up to 20,000 barrels per day.

--Al-Qayarah refinery expansion project: Construction has been completed on a third production unit to produce 120,000 tons of asphalt annually. The national cadre carried out all the civil engineering work and designs, and supervised the project. The new unit increases total production capacity of the al-Qayarah refinery to 300,000 tons of asphalt per year.

--Construction of a plant for the production of gas for cigarette lighters. This project was implemented by the national cadre and has a capacity of 2 million butane gas containers per year.

Projects Under Way

In addition to the preceding, there are several other projects still under way, as follows:

--A project to expand the liquefied gas plant at Khawr al-Zubayr from 200,000 to 400,000 tons of liquefied gas. This project is being implemented by the organization's national cadre and is expected to be opened in the middle of this year.

--A project for a lubricants production plant in al-Dawrah: This project is being implemented by the national cadre and will produce 10,000 tons of various kinds of lubricants per year in accordance with international specifications. The project is expected to be opened in the middle of this year.

--A project for the construction of three units to produce naphtha and liquefied gas and refine gasoline at the al-Dawrah refinery: This project

includes completion of a unit to treat light and heavy naphtha with hydrogen in order to remove sulfuric compounds and produce refined naphtha. The capacity of this unit will be 18,000 barrels per day. Also included in the project is a plant to produce liquefied gas with a capacity of 200 tons per day, and a third unit to refine gasoline with a capacity of 10,000 barrels of refined gasoline per day.

--A plant to produce hexane and construction of two spherical storage tanks in al-Taji: This plant will produce the substance hexane from natural gas and will have a capacity of 3,000 tons per year. The hexane will be used in the production of vegetable oils.

--The Salah-al-Din refinery project: Work is under way on this refinery, which is one of the giant refining projects in Iraq and will have a capacity of 3.5 million tons of crude petroleum per year. The organization's cadres are responsible for supervising and monitoring the project as well as performing a consulting role. It is hoped that this refinery, which is located in the Bayji area, will be brought into operation in mid-1981. The design of the refinery allows for the possibility of expanding its productive capacity at a later time.

--A project for the treatment of industrial and polluted water at the al-Dawrah refinery: The production capacity of this project will be 850 cubic meters per hour, with the potential of increasing this capacity to 1,450 cubic meters per hour under unusual circumstances. The project is aimed at protecting the waters of the Tigris River from pollution by waste products in the polluted water discharged by the al-Dawrah refinery as a result of the refining process. The national cadres of the organization are moving quickly to complete the projects assigned to it in order to develop the refining industry in the light of the growth taking place in Iraq.

Distribution of Oil and Gas Products

The distribution of oil and gas products plays an important role in view of the extensive expansion occurring in all sectors [of the national economy], because these sectors are affected both directly and indirectly by the distribution process. For this reason, the Public Oil Products and Gas Distribution Organization endeavors to keep up with development and expansion. Thus, we note that its progress during 1979 surpassed the annual plan. This organization's projects include the following:

Projects By the Direct Implementation Method

The organization completed a number of projects by the direct implementation method, including filling stations in al-Khalis, Kifri, Atrush, Badhuk, the Salah-al-Din resort, al-Jadwal al-Gharbi in Karbala', al-Nasiriyah, al-Diwaniyah al-Jadidah, Darbandikhan, al-Dulu'iyah in al-Anbar, and al-Haydariyah in Karbala'.

Additional projects include an auxiliary project at the al-Siniyah station in Salah-al-Din; the Hayy al-Bakr oil and gas yard in al-Nasiriyah; the al-Shinafiyah distribution center in al-Qadisiyah; the liquefied gas bottling plant in al-Hillah, the al-Bahhar oil and gas yard in Basrah; expansion projects for the northern area distribution installation in Nineveh and the al-Hurriyah oil and gas yard in Baghdad; expansion of the transport garage in al-Dawrah, the Mosul oil and gas yard, and the liquefied gas bottling plant in Basrah; construction of a recreation hall in Basrah, workshops and yards in al-Taji, and a yard for worn-out equipment in al-Harithiyah in Baghdad; construction of pipelines and installation of meters in al-Dawrah, development of the new al-Dawrah storage facility, and connection of the pumping station in al-Dawrah with the pipelines of the new al-Dawrah reservoir; [construction of] the second police oil and gas yard, installation of a vehicle weighing platform in al-Dawrah, installation of loading platforms at the al-'Amarah storage facility, replacement of a gasoline pipeline at the new al-Dawrah storage facility, erection of vertical tanks at the al-Hillah storage facility, and installation of fire-fighting equipment at the al-'Amarah storage facility.

There are other projects in various parts of the country, a percentage of which was implemented by the organization's national cadre in cooperation with local contractors. These projects include a workers dining hall at the Wasit gas plant, a modern filling station in al-Anbar; the Tuz Khurmatu filling station in Salah-al-Din; other filling stations in Tikrit, Irbil, 'Izz-al-Din in Basrah, al-Mushahidah in Baghdad and on the Iraqi-Jordanian border in al-Anbar; the Five Mile oil and gas yard in Basrah; the 'Atabah distribution center in Basrah; the Altun Kupri filling station in al-Ta'mim; a spherical storage tank in al-Shu'aybah in Basrah and a similar tank for liquefied gas in al-Hillah; the Mahmur filling station in Irbil and another filling station in al-Mishkhab in al-Najaf; the Abi Sukhayr oil storage facility; the Kamit filling station in Maysan; a spherical storage tank at the al-Dawrah gas plant; the al-'Aziziyah filling station; and phase one of the Hindiyyah Barrage storage facility.

Projects being implemented by local contractors include the al-'Amarah oil storage facility (phase 3); another storage facility at the Hindiyyah Barrage (phase 2); construction of earth foundations at the Dhi Qar storage facility; construction of a shop for washing and lubrication of vehicles at the al-Ma'qil filling station in Basrah; and construction of foundations for vertical storage tanks at the al-Diwaniyah storage facility. Thus, we see that the Public Oil Products and Gas Distribution Organization is continuing with projects related to the distribution of various kinds of fuel in order to make this fuel available to citizens on a continuous basis and at low prices in all parts of the country. The organization also has other new projects in the design stage. Some of these are expected to be finished during 1980. These projects, which cover all areas of the country, include construction of 17 fuel filling

stations, a number of storage tanks, yards for sheltering vehicles, development and construction of storage facilities, projects to increase storage capacity, foundations for storage tanks, a scrap yard, oil and gas yards, and reservoirs for water to fight fires.

The organization owns thousands of tank trucks, a fleet of tankers for oil products, and a vast network of pipelines to transport oil products.

Iraq National Oil Company [INOC]

The cadres of INOC, both in the General Organization for Northern Oil and the General Organization for Southern Oil, are continuing to move forward with seismic surveying, drilling and production in accordance with established plans.

During 1979, the national cadres of the Public Organization for Northern Oil continued to achieve accomplishments and projects which were extremely effective in supporting the national economy. These include the following:

- National technical cadres finished drilling a number of wells in various oilfields.

- The capacity of the oil pumping pipeline from Khaniqayn to al-Dawrah was increased.

- All construction, testing and start-up operation at the new stabilizer complex were completed.

- The course of some main oil pipelines was altered.

- A network of pipelines to transport gas and crude oil was completed.

- 600 houses were completed and distributed to workers as part of a 2,000-home project.

- Two storage tanks of the strategic pipeline were linked to a water system for fire fighting at Kirkuk Station 3.

- Three pipelines for oil products were laid out, and a new loading station at Baba al-Sina'iyah was built.

- Some modifications were carried out at the al-Qiyarah oilfield to raise production capacity of the field.

The following projects are still under way:

- The al-Qiyarah oilfield development project.

- Construction of a fire station in Baba al-Sina'iyah.

--Construction of 10 workers houses at Kirkuk Station 3.

--Construction of a shop for testing and salvaging equipment for the Drilling Section in the industrial area.

--Replacement and extension of a network of pipelines at various sites.

--Installation of separators at various stations.

--Construction of a clinic at Kirkuk Station 2.

In the area of training of the national cadres, several training and development courses have been set up to prepare the cadres needed by the organization to direct oil operations in northern oilfields.

Thus, we see that during 1979 the oil industry took giant strides toward the creation of an advanced national oil industry in order to realize the aspirations and goals of our Arab nation for unity, freedom and socialism.

8591

CSO: 4802

KURDISTAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GREW DURING PAST YEAR

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 7

[Article: "Various Development Projects at a Cost of 118 Million Dinars"]

[Text] The total cost of projects which were completed by the administrations of the autonomous region during the past year or are still under way throughout the region stands at over 118 million dinars.

The general secretariat of the Public Works and Housing Administration has carried out projects costing a total of 1.749 million dinars. These include four government buildings, a workshop for repairing heavy machinery, four buildings for health organizations, two buildings for youth organizations and a social organization, and 16 school buildings with dining halls and shops.

The secretariat is implementing 175 projects by contract at a cost of 17.329 million dinars. These include construction of 132 apartments and residential houses, and buildings for 40 health organizations, 11 youth organizations, 12 education organizations and 15 social organizations, as well as a repair shop, five boarding sections to house students, and 24 government buildings.

Schools and Kindergartens

The Internal Affairs Administration has completed a group of projects at a cost of 9.123 million dinars including 74 schools and kindergartens, seven government buildings, three health centers, five laboratories, a youth center, a public library, six shops and boarding sections, four modern markets, and 407 residential houses.

Services Projects

The projects completed by the municipal administrations and resorts cost a total of 5.792 million dinars. They included four restaurants and tourist casinos and 10 tourist apartments; construction and completion of 31 water projects and 11 public gardens, parks and playgrounds; paving

of 26 internal streets and four parking lots; and construction of four modern markets, 10 residential houses and a garage.

Mosques in the Modern Villages

Projects carried out by the AWQAF [Religious Foundations] Administration cost 6.48 million dinars and included construction of 58 mosques in the modern villages; 29 mosques in the districts, subdistricts and large villages; a residential building; a tourist hotel; and 10 residential houses.

Hospitals and Health Centers

Health and social services projects now under completion by the Social Affairs Administration will have a total cost of over 23 million dinars. These projects include construction of two public hospitals, nine regular hospitals, 23 main and branch health centers, 43 residential houses, five health institutes and schools, five preventive health projects, four day care centers, two social centers, a girls health care center, an institute for the blind, a club and library for workers, a vocational training center, a workers hotel, two complexes of employment agencies, two health centers, and 100 dwelling units for workers.

Animal Wealth Projects

The Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Administration completed residential projects for its members at a cost of 91,000 dinars. These projects were distributed among the governorate, district and subdistrict centers of the region. The administration also completed additional projects at a cost of 1.757 million dinars, including buildings for the agricultural agencies, local and joint [local-provincial] administrative offices, and projects for animal wealth, horticulture and forestry development.

8591

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

ANIMAL BREEDING COMPLEXES--The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform completed a number of production projects during the past year, and work is continuing to complete a number of other projects. The total cost of the projects is over 481 million dinars. The ministry completed three large dairy cattle stations with a capacity of 180,000 kilograms of meat and more than 3 million kilograms of milk per year for each station. It also completed two plants for the production of concentrated feed to develop the animal wealth projects. These plants have a capacity of 22,500 tons of animal feed and operate on two shifts. The ministry also erected eight greenhouses to produce summer vegetables during other seasons. Each greenhouse has an area of 6 dunums. In addition, the ministry completed a project to fatten lambs with a capacity of 6,000 head of sheep and 500 calves and a poultry slaughterhouse in the northern region, and a plant for cleaning rice seed in the southern region with a capacity of 8,000 tons per hour. The ministry also received two ships for fishing and fish processing. The ministry is continuing work on the construction of the al-Dujaylah industrial complex, which will cover a 300,000-dunum area, and the Abu Gharib agricultural project which is to cover 1.25 million dunums and includes implementation of irrigation and drainage systems, land reclamation, animal wealth projects and integrated industrial-agricultural projects. Work is also continuing on a project below al-Khalis which will cover an area of 350,000 dunums when it is completed. This project includes construction of an irrigation system, lining of the irrigation canals with concrete, a system of drainage ditches integrated with grading of the land, three cattle stations, and seven poultry projects. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Jan 80 p 7] 8591

IRBIL GOVERNORATE ROADS--During the past year, the Irbil Governorate Roads Department completed 11 highways with a combined length of 111 kilometers and a total cost of 11.99 million dinars. The highways completed were the Zahr al-Samakah-Diyana road, the branch of the 'Ali Bak and al-Ana-Khata road, the Rawanduz-Karwah Juri road, the road leading to the village of Rayzan branching off from the Kalalah-Diyana road, the road leading to the Qasri-Dilman junction, the Khalifan-al-Anah road, the Kumah Saban-Khanzad road, the Rawanduz-Bikhal road, and the Khalifan-Kurak road. The department is currently in the process of implementing 36 other roads with

a combined length of 1,024 kilometers and a total cost of 85.47 million dinars. Mr 'Abd-al-Karim Hasan Rafiq, director of roads for the governorate of Irbil, indicated that the plan for the current year includes the implementation of six highways with a total length of 87 kilometers. These are the Hajran-Kalak road, the Hajran-Ziyarat road, the Qashqah-Baradah Sabi road, the highway in Shaqlawah, the SarahRash-Karaw road, and the Babah Jijak-Barzan road. The plan also includes construction of a bridge over the Little Zab River on the Harir-Zantah road. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Jan 80 p 7] 8591

MIRAGE ORDER--Iraq ordered an additional 24 Mirage F-1 planes at a time when the first deliveries of the initial order of 36 F-1's was due to arrive. It also appears that the country has picked up an option on an unspecified number of Mirage 2000's. [Text] [Paris DEFENSE INTERARMES in French Mar 80 pp 7-8] 7129

FRENCH COMPANY GAS CONTRACT--The French engineering company, Technip, today signed and sealed a contract with the Iraqi national company SCOP (State Organization for Oil Projects), in the amount of 1 billion French francs. The contract, which was the result of a very strict international call for tenders, involves the execution of a gas extraction and petroleum gas production complex at Zubair in southeastern Iraq. The complex, which is to be built and completed within 30 months, will presumably be able to treat 6 billion cubic meters of associated gas annually, 4 billion tons annually of propane and butane, in addition to 1.5 million tons yearly of gasoline. The Technip group is located in 58 countries and employs 4,800 people. It will be the star of the project which will be paid for in cash by Iraq, without recourse to foreign financing. Technip of Lyons, the branch office of the group which obtained the contract, for certain types of material will launch an international call for tenders, and so far as is possible, will favor industries in the Lyons region. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Mar 80 p 36] 7129

TRANSPORT COOPERATION AGREEMENT--Baghdad, 2 Apr--RCC member and Transport and Communications Minister Sa'dun Ghaydan met here today with Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and minister of general engineering, agricultural machinery and vehicle building. During the meeting fields of cooperation between the two friendly states were discussed, particularly in transport and communications. An agreement for technical cooperation was signed today between Iraq and GDR in the fields of transport and communications. The agreement, deriving from the activities of the joint committee for economic, technical and scientific cooperation, stipulates an increase in cooperation in transport and communications and the exchange of expertise between the two friendly states. The agreement was signed for the Iraqi side by the Transport and Communications Ministry undersecretary, 'Abd al-Sattar Faraman. It was signed for the GDR side by the undersecretary of the electrical engineering and electronics industry. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 2 Apr 80 JN]

LOAN TO MADAGASCAR--Baghdad, 5 Apr--A long-term loan agreement, without interest, was signed here today between the Iraqi Fund for Foreign Development and the Malagasy Government. Under the agreement, Iraq will grant the Democratic Republic of Madagascar a \$9.4 million loan. This is part of an Iraqi program to aid 12 developing states. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 5 Apr 80 JN]

ZIMBABWE EMBASSY--Baghdad, 5 Apr--The Foreign Ministry decided today to open an embassy in Salisbury, Zimbabwe. An official statement said that the decision is in implementation of the principle of expanding and strengthening the relations between Iraq and the African countries. [Excerpt] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Apr 80 JN]

CSO: 4802

SIXTH PLENARY CONVENTION OF AGUDAT ISRAEL LAUDED

Jerusalem HAMODI'A in Hebrew 15 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Opportune Moment for Agudat Israel"]

[Text] The first session of the world executive committee of Agudat Israel, which took place yesterday, ushers in for all practical purposes a new period in the life of the world movement following the sixth plenary convention. The election of institutions that will lead the movement till the seventh convention marks the close of the transitional period. From this point on, members and sympathizers will be justified in demanding implementation of the hopes and expectations they placed on the sixth plenary convention. These hopes and expectations have been strengthened by the extraordinary success attending this world congress of representatives of conservative Judaism and by the basic topics that were addressed, namely: the establishment and development of communal, educational, and social life in all locales.

If it were permissible to speak figuratively, and in the present context it unquestionably is, this can best be described as the most opportune moment in the history of Agudat Israel. The sixth convention renewed the youthful vigor of Agudat Israel. It imparted a historical dimension to it and recalled the goals its founders had set for it 70 years ago. These goals received a great new impetus in the face of new developments in the life of the nation. New dangers are threatening the large Jewish communities. They are faced with a storm of absorption and assimilation, and, from a Jewish viewpoint, an apparent threat of inevitable decline.

We do not want to appear overly emotional in our praise of the sixth convention. It surprised even confirmed optimists among us. But we should emphasize another point, namely the disappointment felt by all those who believed and induced others to believe that the hour of Agudat Israel had passed. It became clear, beyond the shadow of a doubt that Agudat Israel is still the central force in conservative Judaism. The majority of Torah scholars and Torah institutions are counted among its supporters and openly identify with it. Whoever witnessed the Torah giants on the dais at the sixth convention was persuaded that Agudat Yisroel had not lost its vitality, and that its vigor was equal to that exhibited at its inception. It

is understandable that nobody is justified in dwelling on the chapter of differences between the early and later generations. The multitude of adherents of conservative Judaism demonstrated confidence and hope that there are leaders to give direction to Agudat Israel and to supervise its activities. The movement does not need uninvited overseers and guardians who are interested only in reflected glory which they do not deserve.

The ideal of Agudat Israel is preserved in all its purity by those to whom Divine Providence has passed on the sacred and precious trust which the luminaries of Israel founded and nurtured three or four generations ago. As we inferred previously, if this ideal was a potent force which the leaders of Israel enthusiastically espoused in its heyday, it should be all the more so today, when the secular camp is confronted with dashed hopes and lack of ideals or values. Thousands despairing of their broken idols are knocking at the gates. There is no better sign attesting to the vigor of the ideal and its place in Israeli society than the vilifications levelled against it from all sides these past weeks. Again, Agudat Israel is being crowned with the epithet "Enemies of Zion." Such appellations never had any validity and certainly not today, when Zionism has become a materialistic device lacking the spiritual content to nurture those whose existence depends on it.

We dare not rest on the laurels of success and moral victory for too long. However, this victory that obligates Agudat Israel to implement the hopes and to execute the decisions adopted by the sixth plenary convention. These are not necessarily public issues. Essentially they are organizational devices to increase the effectiveness of Agudat Israel and to enable it to win over both small and large Jewish centers throughout the world. It must be enabled to bring them the tidings of the rebirth of Agudat Israel; to grant them the rich experience gained in the rescue of Judaism through an emphasis on education. Without education, Agudat Israel would not be what it is today.

This is Agudat's finest hour to achieve its goal and to accomplish its sacred aim.

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CSO: 4805

DIFFICULT SITUATION REGARDING PALESTINIAN AUTONOMY ANTICIPATED

Jerusalem HAMODI'A in Hebrew 20 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "McHenry's Views on a Palestinian State"]

[Text] Mr Donald McHenry, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is visiting our area. He is not preparing to present a doctoral thesis describing the parties interested in the issue of establishment of a Palestinian state, or the chances that Israel will agree to conduct negotiations with the PLO. The questions he posed to people in the government as well as to some individuals in the opposition cannot be labeled as purely academic. They have gone beyond issues deemed permissible in the debates taking place in the various committees dealing with the qualitative definitions of autonomy. It appears that his mission is distinctly different from the one assigned to ambassador Sol Linowitz.

That may be the reason why Palestinian representatives [in Israel] agreed to meet with McHenry and not with Linowitz. This is not necessarily because the latter is Jewish and the former is not. For example, [even though he was Jewish], Henry Kissinger achieved a relationship of sympathy with the Arab side when he came as a messenger from the White House. McHenry, in contrast to Sol Linowitz, talks about a Palestinian state and not about autonomy which is not acceptable to any Palestinian personality even as a political tactic.

The meetings held by McHenry with various Israeli personalities from both sides of the parliamentary aisle cannot be more than clarifying talks. Israel has a resolute and determined position. On this, there is almost complete consensus. A Palestinian state is bound to become a stumbling block primarily for Israel and also for the west. Yassir Arafat's predilection for the Soviet Union should give rise to second thoughts in the United States. However, the encouraging effort in Egypt strengthens the government's hope that a Palestinian state will be under its protection.

Yesterday, Egyptian president Sadat announced a scenario that reveals to a great extent the trend of his thinking. According to this scenario the future of Judea, Samaria and Gaza will be decided at a future summit meeting in the format of Camp David. In other words, at this meeting

the [U.S.] government will force Israel to accept a version of autonomy which will meet with Egypt's approval and which will prepare the ground for the establishment of a Palestinian entity. Is he merely verbalizing his personal thinking, or does he have sufficient reason to look down the road and see that he will achieve his objective at the planned summit.

From all appearances, it seems that Israel is rapidly approaching the fateful point of decision on this burning issue. In the view of many, it is the heart of the problem. Israel's attempts to skirt around the problem runs counter to the wishes of the United States. The latter has obligations to pro-western states like Saudi Arabia and Jordan to solve the Palestinian problem. This explains why the United States reacted so sharply to the trend to settle Jews in Hebron. The apprehension was that this step would stir up the population and intensify the demand to implement the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in accord with assurances given by the United States.

Israel's ability to withstand imminent pressures depends on their nature. This was hinted at some days ago by two influential American newspapers. THE WASHINGTON POST went even further by suggesting that the administration should exact a price for all the settlements Israel is establishing in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. In other words Israel is to be made aware of how much aid she may lose as a result of settlement policy. Up to now, this approach has been unheard of in U.S. dealings with states dependent on its aid. This does not mean the administration will adopt this concept. But there is enough here to portend a dire situation in which Israel may find itself. The ability to withstand these pressures depends on the degree of unanimity that can be reached in Israel on uncompromising opposition to a Palestinian state. At present, it is doubtful whether there is a basis for a consensus. The American administration as well as the Arabs know Israel's vulnerable points. True, the Israeli administration succeeded yesterday in preventing the gathering at the Temple Mount, but the impudence of daring to call a meeting of this sort in Jerusalem reveals the vulnerability the Arabs are seeking to attack. That more than anything else is a cause for alarm.

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CSO: 4805

EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WELCOMED, BUT CONTINUING DIFFERENCES STRESSED

Tel Aviv HATZOFEN in Hebrew 17 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Observations on Exchange of Ambassadors"]

[Text] Today, the Israeli diplomatic mission is leaving for Cairo to prepare a building in a quarter of Cairo to house the Israeli embassy in Egypt. At the same time, Egyptian diplomats will arrive in Tel Aviv to arrange for quarters to house the Egyptian embassy in Israel. In the final days of February, the designated ambassador to Egypt Eliahu Ben Elisar will present his credentials to President Anwar Sadat, and the designated Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Mr Murtadah will present his credentials to President Yitzhak Navon.

The opening of embassies marks a decisive event in the ongoing normalization process between the two countries. The Israeli mission that returned from Cairo after autonomy discussions announced that discussions have been initiated on the practical details of normal land and sea communications. At the beginning of the coming months, regular weekly flights will be arranged between the airfields of the two countries. Negotiations are continuing for the signing of a tourist agreement.

In the negotiations between the opposing work groups on the question of autonomy, the Egyptians again tried to force a proposal that old Jerusalem be included in the framework of the autonomy question. They also discussed the question of security against the background of home rule in the territories. The Israeli mission rejected both proposals. It stated that as a work group it is obliged to concentrate on the administrative authority that is to be granted and on arrangements for the coming elections. The mission stood firm on its proposal for the division of authority into three classes: powers that Israel will retain, powers that will be delegated to the administrative council and powers that will be shared jointly by Israel and the council.

Progress is slow. On the central political questions, wide differences between the opposing groups still remain. The Israeli mission seeks clarification of the practical administrative problems. On these, there

is a possibility of agreement, and they should be addressed before dealing with the focal political and security provisions of autonomy.

Egypt still continues to protest the settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. She has joined in the Moroccan demand voiced in the name of all Muslim states for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to deal with Jewish infiltration into Hebron. There is a blatant contradiction between the normalization process and granting support to hostile activities such as those of the Security Council against Israel in a matter which needs clarification in its various details without tendentious provocations.

With the opening of the Israeli and Egyptian embassies, it would be proper to decide on the locations for the coming talks at all levels. They can alternate between Israel and Egypt. It is completely unnecessary to have the talks take place in London, Zurich or any other location outside the territory of these two states. Normalization should apply to the places where the talks are to be held.

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CSO: 4805

CAREFUL PURSUIT OF RELIGIOUS ALINEMENT ADVISED

Tel Aviv HATZOFEH in Hebrew 17 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Talks on a Broadened Religious Alinement"]

[Text] Talks that have begun between the NRP and the Agudat Poalei Israel in the matter of establishing a joint alinement for the coming Knesset elections will certainly continue. Preliminary details, such as common listings in many municipal elections and now in elections of the professional organizations, support this renewed attempt to present a unified front in the tenth Knesset.

Every partnership contains advantages and disadvantages. A unified group instead of a divided one is preferable as long as the program is the same. It conserves time, energy and means, and enables the group to aim for common goals. An election alinement, if it succeeds, is a substantial step towards a unified organization. The organized religious public is sufficiently served by two parties; one with a national religious purpose and the other with an anti-Zionist conservative direction. Within these two contexts, there is room for infinite modifications. A third party would be superfluous. Relevant public affairs are based on current realities. We should waive what was acceptable in the past but is now superfluous.

A public minority that is striving for growth, and is not content to remain a bloc courted for its potential deciding vote in close situations, must aim to become a leading force in certain situations. It is quite proper that such a minority should seek to broaden its base and seek ways for growth. One method is a partnership in alinement with the group closest to it in methods, viewpoints, organization and activity. One must compete for greatness with methods that offer a hope of success.

On the other hand, a partnership that does not work well will bring disappointment very early and result in total dissolution. These are the fears that accompany the talks on joint action. There is no lack of such attempts in the real world of politics.

A simplistic approach would be that there is little need for discussion since the differences in the programs of the two religious parties are

minimal. However, certain matters should be discussed exhaustively such as: common aims and differences, accomplishments and omissions, and hopes for the near as well as the distant future. Only after due consideration should conclusions be drawn. There are basic goals common to both the Poalei Hamizrahi and the Poalei Agudat Israel as to the structure of the Jewish State, its image and direction. Problems of a working society and the question of resettlement in all parts of Israel demand solutions. We may assume that a common denominator can be found on questions of foreign policy and everyday domestic problems. But differences will still remain since each party comes with its own individual past and background. These may raise the question of whether the joint venture is worth it.

The talks have just begun. They should be continued with patience and a discriminating analysis of all that is involved in the various aspects of a joint alinement.

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CSO: 4805

AFTER TITO, YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP TO FACE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING UNITY

Tel Aviv HATZOFEH in Hebrew 17 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Yugoslavia After Tito?"]

[Text] The president of Yugoslavia, Marshal Tito, is at the time of this writing in serious condition. He has prepared a collective leadership to act as his heir. They are already engaged in activities to insure the stability of a republic composed of diverse ethnic areas and nationalities whose distinct national and social interests are often in conflict. Tito exercised supreme authority. During the long years of his reign, he enforced his rule over central groups and locales in Yugoslavia which had formerly been embroiled in serious internal strife among themselves. The ability of the collective leadership is now being tested. Can it guard the unity of the federation?

The leaders of the regime in Yugoslavia fear that the Soviets may attempt to take advantage of the death of Tito and utilize the opportunity to force their rule over the country whose leader had instituted an independent communist regime. Actually, the Soviets call these fears groundless. At present, they are maintaining normal relations with Yugoslavia. But Moscow cannot come to terms with a communist regime that refuses to accept its authority. To the degree that the leadership encounters difficulties in ruling firmly, the Soviets will try to drive wedges between the various locales and nationalities and incite them to revolt against the central regime in Belgrade.

During his rule, Tito established the bloc of uncommitted nations to obstruct the spread of Soviet domination. Arab countries were included in this bloc, as derogatory speeches against Israel are heard from within it.

Whoever follows events in Yugoslavia must analyze the ability of the collective leadership to maintain the unity of a federation composed of nations and locales that in the past enjoyed independence. The U.S. and western states have warned the USSR that an incursion into Yugoslavia could cause a world conflagration.

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CSO: 4805

COURT DECISION ON TEACHERS' PAY INCREASE SEEN LEADING TO DIFFICULTIES

Jerusalem HAMODI'A in Hebrew 20 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Teachers Win an Empty Victory in Pay Dispute"]

[Text] The teachers are happy. The Labor Court has granted them all that the government has hitherto refused them. According to the verdict they are entitled to the same wage increments the engineers receive. From now on, they also will be the recipients of increments for advanced study as well as pedagogic compensation. The minister of education and culture evinced satisfaction at the verdict. It relieved him of the onus of contesting the teachers' demands. The sole loser in this legal battle was the finance minister. He is not concerned with principles but with the practical aspects of implementing the court decision. The sum required to make the supplemental payments amounts to approximately 2.5 billion [as published] pounds.

This sum does not solve the problem. According to the rule prevalent in Israel, other groups of workers are entitled to parallel dispensations. We may assume that following the teachers' victory other groups of employees are waiting to present their demands in accord with the linkage rules in the wage arrangements existing in Israel.

Where will the finance minister find the sums required to execute the court's decision? Will he disregard it and expose himself to contempt action? It is extremely doubtful that the teachers will agree to accept the proposal to postpone the payment to the next fiscal period. Mr Hurevitz has an unanswerable plea. "I am broke," says the minister appointed to guard the exchequer. This payment will unavoidably cause an increase in the budget. An increase in the budget implies an increase in taxes. A budgetary increase will increase the rate of inflation at a time when the treasury is struggling to slow it down.

This wage increment to one group will inevitably lead to demands from other groups. If everybody grabs the treasury by the throat there will be no alternative but to again start up the printing presses at the mint. We shall not attempt to talk with the teachers about reason and logic. What is the good of a wage increment when its end result will be an injury to them? It is a natural phenomenon that when self-interest is at

stake people refuse to listen. The evil of pay scale linkage is extremely difficult to eradicate. It is a fact the government attempted in good faith to put an end to in the charade of pay scale linkage between the teachers and the engineers. Unfortunately, the government lost in the court action.

The court did not ponder the budgetary implications of its decision. The projected results of this decision are very serious not only in the relations of the administration to the teachers who are its employees. The decision will ultimately exert an influence on pay scales of employees who are not fed from the public trough nor from the national budget. The reference is to the many private educational institutions. They will have no choice but to pay the wage increments. Where will they raise the money? The latter institutions do not own printing presses that can turn out money. The implications are quite clear. In certain instances there will be bankruptcy or total collapse. The court did not weigh these considerations, but it will be impossible to avoid these results. The entire educational structure will experience shock waves. The only solution is to find financial support in the treasury, but what can the latter do when it is still wrestling with prior difficulties?

8995

CSO: 4805

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES EURO-ARAB COOPERATION, SECURITY

Beirut CONNAISSANCE DU MONDE ARABE in French Mar 80 pp 14, 15, 17

[Interview with Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber, Vice-President of the Kuwaiti Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, by Elie Masbouni: "Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber: 'We Want To Develop Our Cultural and Technical Cooperation With France'"; date and place not given]

[Text] When Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber, together with other leaders, was preparing for the official visit of President Valery Giscard d'Estaing to the Gulf area, the vice-president of the Kuwaiti Council and minister of foreign affairs granted L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, CONNAISSANCE DU MONDE ARABE an interview during which he referred to Franco-Kuwaiti relations in their Euro-Arab context, and also to the general situation in the Gulf.

The head of the Kuwaiti diplomatic sector placed special emphasis on the similarity between French and Kuwaiti views concerning international problems, but noted that cooperation is yet to develop further in the cultural and technical fields.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber reasserted his country's desire for unity in the Gulf area which, according to him, must serve as the basis for an Arab unity which will be a source of strength and of endurance.

The interview went along the following lines:

[Question] What are your views on Euro-Arab cooperation and in particular cooperation between Kuwait, on the one hand, and on the other, France and the French-speaking countries insofar as politics is concerned?

[Answer] Kuwait is fully convinced of the need for and the usefulness of cooperation between the countries and peoples of the world. Cooperation will have clearly-defined consequences for the establishment of stability and the strengthening of understanding which are equally important as basic elements for the progress of humanity.

There is no doubt that the European countries figure among the countries toward which Kuwait extends special attention, given the traditional ties

between these and the Arab mother country. Among these European nations, France is perhaps the most important. And if the field of economic cooperation between Kuwait and France is extensive and greatly developed, Kuwait also hopes to see the expansion of its cooperation and trade with France in cultural and technical areas, in addition to the political sector. This will reinforce even further the existing understanding between the two countries and aid in developing their common interests.

We in Kuwait are happy to acknowledge the similarity between French and Kuwaiti political attitudes with reference to a number of questions which are of interest to the international community.

No one should doubt that the growing understanding manifested by France in connection with our Arab causes, and above all vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue, reflects in a positive way on the relations between France and the Arab states, among which is Kuwait. We have great hopes that the permanent consultations between our two countries, held at different levels, and particularly the exchange of visits by the leaders of the two countries, will lead to more coordination and comprehension on the different topics at stake, including those of a political nature.

The Strength of the Gulf Will Lie in Its Unity

[Question] There is a great deal of talk about the Gulf region's process of unification getting a good start in the near future. What are Kuwait's views regarding the achievement of unity in this area?

[Answer] The unification of the Gulf region is one of the dearest aspirations for all our peoples. Kuwait's standpoint in no way differs from that of any other of the Gulf states. Thus we are working for unity, because therein lies our strength, and it represents our solidarity, our cooperation and our understanding in different fields, whether it be the economic, cultural, social, political or military. In short, what we seek is absolute and global cooperation.

We have worked hard and accomplished a good deal. There is still much to be done, because the unity of the Gulf region must be built up on a solid and lasting basis. Otherwise, we will have failed in respect to the rights of our people.

Over the long term, the goal we wish to attain is the establishment of a unified Gulf region which will constitute a valid and solid foundation for Arab unity, a unity which will meet the hopes of all Arab peoples, whosoever they may be and wherever they may be. It will be a unity which will give rise to a valid and firm form of cooperation with other peoples throughout the world in all the areas likely to consolidate the security, peace and stability of the world.

To Defeat Fear

[Question] What are Kuwait's concepts of security for the Gulf area, particularly in connection with the means likely to aid in putting an end to the cold war in this region?

[Answer] There will be no security in the world while there are states engaged in exploiting others, concerned in working only for their own interests to the detriment of the interests of other countries. Security can only be strengthened by stability and tranquillity, just as progress cannot take place other than under a mantle of security and stability. Fear is the foe of security and therefore it is a question of eliminating fear, first of all, and yet this can only be accomplished by absolute global collaboration. It can only be done by the unity which gives rise to strength and endurance and, lastly, by work designed to mold man. Such are the means that can put an end to the cold war in this part of the world. Strong nations which indulge themselves in all this petty display of muscles and confront one another to safeguard their own interests must know that the people are fully aware of the course of events during this century and understand perfectly the conspiracies and under-the-table maneuvers directed against them, and which could conceivably harm both the interests of the nations involved and the interests of their populations. The latter at least have the possibility of rebelling and of obtaining a clearer picture of how things really stand when they are called on to defend themselves and to defend their rights by all the means at their disposal and with all their strength. Consequently, Kuwait's opinion on the security of the Gulf region is linked to our perfect cooperation, our coherence and our unity. It is, in fact, in that direction that we are working.

A Friendly Exchange of Ideas

[Question] The French president, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, in principle, is expected to visit Kuwait officially soon. At this point, could you depict Franco-Kuwaiti relations for us and mention the areas in which such relations could develop?

[Answer] Kuwait sees this visit of the French president as a major step forward on the way to good development of Franco-Kuwaiti relations in a number of different fields. I cannot conceal from you that contacts are being made to prepare for the visit.

So far as Valery Giscard d'Estaing himself is concerned, Kuwait will be happy to await the ideas set forth by our friends in connection with the development of cooperation between our two countries. It would indeed be natural for Kuwait to undertake, on its part, to express its own views in connection with this matter.

Arab-African Cooperation

[Question] Which are the means for developing and strengthening cooperation between Kuwait, on the one hand, and on the other, the French-speaking countries of Africa?

[Answer] Cooperation between Kuwait and the African countries takes many forms, whether that of bilateral cooperation, or of cooperation in the Arab-African framework, or again that of collaboration within the non-aligned group of countries. Again, we cannot distinguish between the relations established by Kuwait, on the one hand, and on the other, French speaking or other African countries.

Kuwait established diplomatic relations with most of the African countries, in addition to our country's participation in the work of several international organizations, together with many other African nations. Kuwait's leadership often exchanges visits with the corresponding authorities of these African states, affording us the opportunity of further consultations and a chance to examine issues of interest to both parties, whether it be matters of bilateral import or questions of an international nature.

It is of interest to emphasize that there is cooperation between Kuwait and a number of these countries, particularly in the political, cultural and economic fields--particularly in the economic area, due to Kuwait's participation in many development projects in these countries.

7129

CSO: 4800

LEBANON

MUFTI COMMENTS ON AFGHANISTAN, SADAT, ISLAMIC REVIVAL

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18-24 Feb 80 pp 9-11

[Interview with Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the Mufti of Lebanon, by Kamal Fa'ur, in Beirut; Date Not Given: "The Mufti of Lebanon To AL-DUSTUR: 'Al-Sadat has Robbed Ulema of a God-Given Right'"]

[Text] For several months, the Mufti of Lebanon, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, declined press interviews. Political developments in the Islamic world absorbed his attention and called for thought, meditation and perhaps reconsideration. Recently, however, Shaykh Hasan Khalid agreed to receive us and answer our questions. The result is the following interview which sheds light on the positions of the Islamic Mufti's Office in Beirut on several issues of the hour:

The Superpowers Seek a New Yalta

[Question] Your eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the Soviet army has entered Afghanistan and America responded with a naval buildup in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The Arab and Islamic countries called the Islamabad conference. What in your view is the thread that runs through those events and how do you view the Soviet entry into Afghanistan?

[Answer] I do not know whether the withdrawal of some Soviet forces from East Germany is a preface for the entry of the Soviet army into Afghanistan [sic]. But the international signals which are occurring rapidly in the political arenas confirm that an event in one part of the world can be related to an event in a completely different part of the world. The recent statements made by the German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in which he objected to the Soviet army's entry into Afghanistan perhaps signify Germany's concern with maintaining its good relations with the Soviet Union regardless of this public expression of opposition. In his recent statements, the German chancellor stressed that Germany will not break off trade relations with the Soviet Union because such relations are vast and because Germany wants to promote and strengthen them. Is Germany in doing so somewhat returning a favor to the Soviet Union for withdrawing some of its forces from East Germany? If this is indeed the case, then it would behoove Germany, by way of returning the favor, to scale down its objection to the Soviet army's entry into Afghanistan and make it a pro forma one.

This example allows us to go further in our suspicions and assume that while the present dispute between the East and the West [over Afghanistan] may be genuine, there may not be real differences between them on what is going on in other parts of the world. It seems that they are in agreement on every thing, as they had done in the past when they signed the Yalta agreement. In our view, this is best expressed in the Soviet-American detente which was crystallized in SALT II. If the two superpowers have agreed on limiting their nuclear weapons, it follows that they have also agreed on all international issues and problems which are likely to spark a nuclear war. SALT II has substituted nuclear war as a means of solving those problems and issues, primarily dividing spheres of influence in the world between them. In this context, SALT II seems to us one of the main threads which run through all those events. We therefore view the Soviet Union's entry into Afghanistan from the perspective of accommodation between the two giants, despite the apparent conflict in their positions and despite America's opposition to the Moscow Olympics. Such opposition has no bearing on policy-making and on determining the fates and destinies of peoples. Although America has stopped food shipments to the Soviet Union, Moscow found a vast new food market in Argentina.

We categorically reject and condemn the Soviet incursion in Afghanistan because in entering that Islamic country militarily and forcibly, the Soviet Union stood against the people's Islamic will to liberate the country from tyranny and blocked that people's right to self-determination and to sovereignty over their own soil. While we view the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in that context, we view through the same perspective America's ambitions in Pakistan, Iran, Egypt and the Arabian Gulf. In an attempt to counter-balance the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the United States is trying to set up military bases in all those countries. Thus the Soviet Union will have helped the United States in strengthening its presence in those areas and the United States will have helped the Soviet Union in cementing its presence in Afghanistan and may be in other countries too.

Therefore, a clear Islamic stand should be based on the rejection and condemnation of any foreign intervention, either from the East or the West. Neither the East nor the West is concerned with the interest of Islam and the Moslems more than it is concerned with its own interests, economy and spheres of influence. Perhaps the recent Islamic conference in Islamabad was a step in that general direction--a direction which we hope will benefit Islam.

An Attack on the Principle of Consultation

[Question] Your eminence, in Egypt, Al-Sadat has reaffirmed more than once that he will never allow men of religion to interfere in politics, although politics is part and parcel of Islam. The rector of Al-Azhar has not commented on Al-Sadat's statement. What is your view on this matter?

[Answer] As to the failure of his eminence the rector of Al-Azhar to comment on Al-Sadat's statement, this is something that concerns his eminence

alone and his responsibility before God Almighty. As to President Al-Sadat's repeated statement that he will not allow men of religion to interfere in politics--if it is true that he has said that, then it is an opinion that will get him no reward from God, for several reasons. Principally, there is no class in Islam which is called men of religion. Every Moslem is in his own way responsible for the advocacy of Islam and responsible for Moslems in their political, social, educational and cultural life in general. If a Moslem occupies a position of responsibility in his society, the higher his position is, the greater his responsibility. Accordingly, Islam has made it incumbent upon a ruler to seek counsel and abide by it, so that he may not abuse his responsibility or abrogate it for himself only. God has said: "They shall conduct their affairs by consultation among themselves," and "Seek their counsel." Therefore, not to seek the opinion of Moslem rulers or Moslem ulema, whether in Egypt or anywhere else, on issues of destiny, is tantamount to a disavowal of the principle of seeking counsel in Islam. A person taking such a position would thus be interfering in the Islamic creed in a disparaging and detrimental manner that holds no good or hope for Islam and Moslems. What is amazing about that statement [by sadat] is that it seeks to deny the right of the ulema to participate in politics while giving politicians the right to interfere in religious matters. That is to say that it has reversed the order of things and robbed the ulema of a God-given right. It also subjects religion to political exploitation against which God has warned us. Therefore, this constitutes a clear violation of God's doctrine. It is our hope that no one will commit such a violation.

Pressure for Reconciliation

[Question] Your eminence, as you know, the Syrian government has suddenly decided to withdraw the peacekeeping forces from the south and Beirut. How do you view those decisions and what are their likely consequences?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the Syrian government's recent decision to withdraw the deterrence forces from the south and Beirut is due to one of two things: either to the possibility of a sudden Israeli aggression, which means that the Syrian forces are compelled to regroup in certain positions, which would entail withdrawal of the Syrian forces from the south and Beirut; or to the position of certain political groups in Lebanon which have been obstructing the resolutions of the Baghdad and Tunis conferences designed to solve the Lebanese problem. The withdrawal of the Syrian forces from certain key locations would place those Lebanese political groups which have gone too far in obstructing matters squarely before their responsibility in maintaining security and subsequently in beginning a process of political reconciliation.

Whether the Syrian government's action is due to this or that reason or to the recent statement made by President Al-Asad in that regard, the fact remains that a sudden Syrian withdrawal would create a serious situation which makes it urgently necessary more than ever before to bring about political reconciliation in the country. We hope that the political groups

will hurry to take such a step in agreement with the state and in observance of the legitimacy of the state. National reconciliation, in our view, is the inevitable result of the Arab and Lebanese will and determination which the Arab Deterrence Forces (ADF) have sought to fulfill. The Syrian army had gone into Lebanon for the sake of Lebanon's security and stability and in order to re-establish reconciliation among its sons. However, certain political groups faced that Lebanese and Arab will, as they faced the Syrian deterrent forces, with strange and suspicious positions and attitudes. This has compelled the Syrian forces, by way of pressure, as we believe, to use the weapon of withdrawal after the excesses of those political groups reached the point of obstructing the work of the Arab follow-up committee.

Anyone who thinks that the Arab deterrence forces--the Syrian in particular--have come to stay is mistaken. And anyone who thinks that the withdrawal of the Syrian forces is final is also mistaken. That is because senior Syrian officials believe that the security of Syria is linked to the security of Lebanon. The moves made by the Syrian forces are necessitated by the security interests of Lebanon and Syria. The Syrian and Lebanese officials seem to be aware of the dictates of the country's interests and are acting accordingly.

The Loss of a Balanced Army

[Question] The various parties clearly disagree over the [Lebanese] army's deployment in the south, Kisrawan, the coastal areas or West Beirut. What do you personally think of the idea of the army taking over security responsibilities instead of the ADF?

[Answer] In the light of what I said toward the end of my reply to the previous question, I would say that the deployment of the Lebanese army--in a truly national manner devoid of sectarian considerations--in all areas of Lebanon to take over security responsibilities instead of the ADF, becomes necessary if the ADF insist on withdrawal. That is because the tribal wars which are taking place among some militias here and there and which are victimizing many innocent citizens, are undermining the country's security and threaten to spread to many areas. If we are determined to preserve the unity of the country, the people and the land, then I believe that there is no security force other than a reunified Lebanese army capable of establishing security in the homeland. However, the security circumstances in which we find ourselves today are not strictly internal security circumstances, but also involve foreign security considerations represented by the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Camp David offensive which is targeted against all the Palestinian and Arab forces in Lebanon. In that sense, the deployment of the Lebanese army is also a matter of concern to those forces--especially the Syrian and Palestinian forces. It is thus necessary to coordinate plans with Syria and the Palestinian revolution in that respect.

[Question] After a long period of retreat, there is now what may be called an Islamic revival. How do you view this matter, and do you find a connection between the Israeli resurgence and the difficulties faced by the present regimes?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, there are in the Islamic world today signs of a renaissance and symptoms of a revival. The revival has not fully burgeoned yet. The political, social and religious developments that are taking place in the Islamic world today are harbingers of a revival to which we look forward and aspire. It should be clear that Islamic revival should be all-inclusive. Thus there should be a political Islamic revival, a religious Islamic revival, a social Islamic revival, an economic Islamic revival, a revival in education, morals and science. When a revival has occurred on all those levels, then Islamic revival would be complete.

Hopefully, the revival which has begun to emerge in the Islamic world today is a response to the byproducts of World War One in our area, namely, the collapse of Islamic unity and the establishment of the state of Israel. These two tragedies, which have been spawned by World War One as a result of international scheming against Islam and Moslems, were the major impetus of the signs of an Islamic revival which we are witnessing today in different parts of the world in response to those who have perpetrated those tragedies. No doubt, there is a connection between the Islamic revival and the difficulties encountered by the present regimes. Those regimes differ in type, structure and orientation and are largely influenced by Western ideas, political concepts, laws and norms and Western systems of education, economy and social work. Islamic thought objects to all those Western notions or has reservations about them. These are examples of the problems facing the regimes, as you have mentioned in your question.

We Reject the Attack on the Grand Mosque

[Question] If indeed there are signs of an Islamic revival, the expressions or manifestations of this revival vary. Some of them are acceptable, some are not. I would like to cite here the incident of the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia, or the Takfir and Hijrah group in Egypt or the Islamic revolution in Iran. What is your view on this diversity in the same phenomenon? And where do you stand on that?

[Answer] Some of those signs are acceptable, some are not. First of all, it should be clear that some of those signs cannot be considered as signs of an Islamic revival, because they contravene true Islamic precepts. The foremost of those is the attack on the Grand Mosque which in no way expresses any facet of Islamic revival. On the contrary, many see in that incident a demonstration of a misconception of Islam and Islamic practice. For the attack on the Grand Mosque, whatever its motivations may be, is an act of aggression which our Islamic creed rejects in form and content, and which we also reject on political grounds. The Takfir and Hijrah movement is undoubtedly of a kind with the attack on the Grand Mosque, especially since it has caused the death of a human being, something God has forbidden except when death is sanctioned, and has flouted the admonition of the Prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation: "A Moslem's blood, money and honor are inviolable. As to the revolution in Iran and the signs of Islamic awareness that is moving Moslems in various parts of the world, they include many vital steps and positions which express the signs of the Islamic revival to which we aspire, albeit with a certain caution and a certain fear.

Our position on the harbingers of Islamic revival is always one of support so long as it is in keeping with basic Islamic tenets, prominently Islamic solidarity and Islamic unity which should ultimately be the main goal of any Islamic revival which we desire, in keeping with God's words: "This nation of yours is one nation, and I am your God, worship me."

[Question] There are those say that the reconciliation which is needed in Lebanon is actually a double one--a reconciliation among the Islamic sects and a reconciliation between those Islamic communities and the Christian sects? Do you accept such a premise and what are in your opinion the conditions for a solid and durable Islamic-Christian reconciliation?

[Answer] In our view, the question is the victim of a perennial fallacy which presupposes that the disagreement is between Christians and Moslems. This is a big mistake. The disagreement has never been between Moslems and Christians. Specifically, it has not been one between Moslems and Maronite Christians. You will find all Christians [sic] in support of the national Islamic demands, including a large number of Maronites in particular. The names of those have become known to all. They all stand today in support of the integrity of the land, the people and the institutions and in support of Lebanon's Arab character, noncooperation with the Israeli enemy, the abolition of political sectarianism, an end to trading in religion and the establishment of justice among all citizens without discrimination. The dispute, therefore, is one--as we have always believed--between a large group of Moslems and Christians, on the one hand, and a group of people who have sectarian privileges, on the other. Each group has its own supporters. Reconciliation, therefore, should be between those two groups and nothing more. Accordingly, the needed reconciliation is not a double one--a reconciliation among the Moslem denominations and a reconciliation between those denominations and the Christian ones--especially since the Islamic denominations are in accord and we have not noticed whatsoever any discord among them from the beginning of the [civil] war to this day.

[Question] Some leaders of the Lebanese Front have taken a negative attitude toward the four-member Arab committee which is charged with the task of implementing the Tunis conference resolutions. They believe that the solution lies in internationalization. What is your view on that, and is Arabization still going on?

[Answer] In talking about the reasons behind the Syrian decision to withdraw the ADF from some areas, I referred to some political groups which go too far in obstructing the efforts of the four-member Arab committee charged with implementing the resolutions of the Tunis conference. As soon as those became aware of the fact that Syria is serious in its decision to withdraw the ADF from the south, and especially from Beirut, they began to sense the danger which this situation would pose to the security situation in Lebanon. Accordingly, they proceeded to make statements and to call upon some political groupings to enter into a dialogue and to seek reconciliation so as

to avoid any possible explosion. To us, this means that the calls for internationalization have collapsed forever. Those people have come to realize that the solution should derive from the will of the Lebanese themselves. This has been the main focus of the Bayt al-Din, Baghdad and Tunis resolutions. Arabization thus aims at allowing the Lebanese themselves to determine their own affairs. How can one reject the Arabization without rejecting the Lebanese will to reconciliation. The negativism displayed by some leaders of the Lebanese Front was not directed against the four-man committee, but against all solutions leading to relief. Those very leaders are interested in maintaining tension and keeping the Lebanese crisis alive pending relief from abroad, specifically from Camp David. Undoubtedly, this is absolutely inconsistent with the supreme Lebanese interest and with the national spirit of independence which we urge everyone to embrace, especially after the wise and serious Arab Syrian position taken by the Syrian government in connection with the security situation in Lebanon.

[Question] The general view among local political circles is that the government of Dr Salim Al-Huss is about to resign. There are many speculations on this matter. What in your view are the most significant things that should be included in the program of a new government in Lebanon?

[Answer] This may be the conjecture of some local political circles but not all of them. We do not believe that those circles are necessarily right in their speculation that the government of Dr Salil Al-Huss is about to resign. We do not know which local political circles are saying that. On the contrary, we believe that the Al-Huss government is cohesive thus far and is proceeding firmly in pursuit of the commitments it had made. At any rate, whether the Al-Huss government stayed or resigned, what is needed remains unchanged: a national reconciliation based on national brotherhood, security, stability, rebuilding the country's institutions, reviving the markets and, finally, social prosperity all over the country.

9254

CSO: 4802

LEBANON

LEBANESE BA'THIST LEADER DISCUSSES INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18-24 Feb 80 pp 14-16

[Interview with Dr 'Abd al-Majid al-Rafi'i, Secretary of the Regional Command of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party in Lebanon, by Kamil Fa'ur-- Place and Date Not Given: "Regrouping of Deterrent Forces in Lebanon as Precaution Against Anticipated Confrontation with Zionist Enemy; We Are With Legitimacy in Lebanon; We Hope Election of Bani-Sadr Will Lead to New Relations with Baghdad"]

[Text] In the following interview with AL-DUSTUR, Dr 'Abd al-Majid al-Rafi'i, one of the most prominent leaders of the Lebanese national movement, talks about the recent developments in Beirut following the announcement of a gradual withdrawal by the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF). In the interview, Dr al-Rafi'i discusses the dangers of the Camp David accords, the Afghanistan events, the Syrian-Iraqi role in solving the Lebanese crisis, the prospects of improved relations between Baghdad and Tehran and the role of the Lebanese national forces in achieving reconciliation at home.

[Question] Dr 'Abd al-Majid al-Rafi'i, what is in fact the background of the gradual withdrawal of the ADF, as it seems, from Lebanon? Have you participated in the recent meetings between the Lebanese national movement and Syrian officials, and what were the results of those meetings?

[Answer] We have the official position on the reasons of the withdrawal. But regardless of the declared position, we believe that the regrouping is a precaution against an anticipated confrontation with the Zionist enemy. If we add to this the crisis of the Syrian-Lebanese relations and the phases through which this crisis has gone, we have the basic background for the decision to withdraw the ADF. We have to underline here the following fact: the interconnection and intertwining of relations between Lebanon and Syria during the Lebanese war have blurred the lines of what Lebanon can give and what Syria can accept.

As to our non-participation in the recent meetings between the national movement and Syrian officials, this was not a boycott of those meetings on our part. It has not been the custom to make delegations necessarily representative of all the parties and groups. As to the outcome of these meetings,

the first visit was meant to find out the reasons for the decision to withdraw the ADF, the second was for the purpose of presenting the national movement's views on the withdrawal decision and on how best to avoid a likely conflagration and arrive at the desired solutions.

[Question] Does the withdrawal of the ADF make it necessary for the forces of the [national] parties to fill the vacuum without delay? And what are the dimensions of such a step. Would the PLO forces be suitable for that purpose?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the withdrawal of the ADF raises the need to fill the security void which has political connotations. We have already made our position clear on that matter and called on the legitimate authority to fill the vacuum so as to avoid an explosion and an exacerbation of the causes of division. We consider such an action to be a factor which would speed up the materialization of the desired political solution.

Confronting Al-Sadat

[Question] Dr Al-Rifa'i, looking at the political developments which followed Al-Sadat's visit to Israel, we note that the Sadat line, if we can call it that, is surging ahead, while the anti-Sadat line is receding. Do you agree with this view? How would you assess the general Arab situation?

[Answer] It is true that Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the signing of the Camp David accords as a result of that visit were significant events in their own right and a historical turning point in the course of the Palestinian issue which is the core of Arab struggle. The visit, however, was the culmination of the process of compromise which had been going on long before the visit under the auspices of several Arab regimes. Vigorous attempts had been made to drag the PLO into that process by all kinds of means and methods. The seriousness of the [Jerusalem] visit, the Camp David accords and the peace treaty between Egypt and the Zionist entity lies in the fact that the largest Arab state has recognized the legitimacy of the existence and security of that entity which has been rejected by our Arab masses and regimes and has abdicated the historic Arab right to Palestine. Its seriousness also lies in the fact that it has detached Egypt, with its human, historic, geographic, material and military weight, from the Arab nation, eliminated its Arab role and removed it from the arena of struggle. This has thus encouraged attempts to freeze the struggle and divide the Arabs into supporters, opponents and in-betweens.

As a result of all that, it has become more possible for the Zionist enemy to single out Syria then Jordan and Lebanon and to strike at the Palestinian resistance movement. The peaceful and inactive southern front has improved the enemy's military position and has enabled it to devote more time and effort to reinforcing its positions internally and to intensify Zionist settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Sector. The Zionist enemy also seeks to insure the resettlement of Palestinians abroad. In so doing, it

particularly depends on the unlimited support of the United States and on inter-Arab differences which are bound to emerge as a result of all those developments.

These are in general the most significant dangers and results which had been planned by the enemies and which emerged from Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, the Camp David accords and the signing of the Egyptian-Zionist peace treaty of 26 March 1979. What have the Arabs done to counter all that? The line which must be adopted should be the complete reverse of the Sadat line. Basically, it should seek to prevent Arab disintegration, whose symptoms began to appear particularly after the signing of the Camp David accords, prevent any other confrontation or non-confrontation Arab state from joining the caravan of peace with the Zionist enemy, reject the call to recognize the legitimacy of the Zionist existence and security and refuse to abdicate the historic Arab right to Palestine as well as to try to readjust the balance of power in favor of the Arab nation by closing ranks, military preparedness, political action, oil pressure and so forth.

The Arab nation has gone a long way in that direction. The Baghdad summit, the steadfastness and confrontation [meetings], the conferences of the Arab foreign, economy and finance ministers, the Tunis summit, the oil summit proposed by Iraq, the Arab moves at the United Nations and in international fora such as the nonalignment summit and the Islamic conference, the international conference held in Lisbon in solidarity with the Arab nation and its central issue--the Palestine question, the Baghdad symposium for a dialogue between Arab and European journalists, the endeavors made among the nations of the European Common Market and in Africa and the steadfastness of the Palestinian resistance and of our masses in the occupied territories and in Lebanon--all those efforts were made for the purpose of countering the Camp David accords, reunifying the Arab rank and mobilizing Arab energies and potentialities around minimum goals that can be acceptable to all but within the framework of the overall Arab strategy of liberation.

Independent Decision-making

[Question] Do you believe, Dr Al-Rafi'i, that the central political council of the national movement is capable of independent decision-making and that its domestic policy meets the people's aspirations? Also, are you in full accord with the council?

[Answer] The variance in the positions of the various parties represented in the central political council may be partly due to the influences that are brought to bear on the council's independent decision-making ability. In that particular realm, we give proper weight to the circumstances and factors which are around us as well as to our alliances before we make our decisions. We believe, however, that the principal factor should be derived from the Lebanese national interest which has never been at variance with the real pan-Arab interest, as the case should be. As a party in this organizational structure of Lebanese national action, we always stress the

principle of independent decision-making. We believe that this kind of independence is not a peripheral issue but part of the struggle effort that is required of us and which we should constantly emphasize and watch for factors that may obstruct it. There is a close symbiosis between the principle of independent decision-making and the task of fulfilling the people's aspirations. The closer one is associated with the masses, the greater his ability to exercise free choice and to overcome pressures.

As to whether we are in full accord with the political council, I presume that the intent of the question is the relations among the various components of the council, not the relations between one component and the body as a whole. I would answer here that differences and variations among the parties have been more pronounced recently. On our part, we insist on more joint appraisals and believe that the first meeting of the leaders and secretaries of the parties represented in the executive committee was a step in that direction.

[Question] We would like to ask you about the Soviet entry into Afghanistan. It is clear that the two superpowers are drawing closer to direct friction. Yet there is talk about a new Yalta [agreement]. What do you think?

[Answer] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has stated its position on the Soviet entry into Afghanistan in the clearest possible way. The importance of this position is that it has criticized the Soviet policy in the region from an anti-America stance, and that it views the policies of the two superpowers toward the Third World and the sensitive regions of that world as policies designed to find justifications and causes for sharing spheres of influence and fostering a new Yalta, as part of the present phase of international rivalry--the phase of detente. We do not exclude the possibility that such an accommodation between the two superpowers might develop more clearly and concretely when each of them acquires more strategic positions, because it is impossible for a relationship of conflict to continue between the two giants when the aims of such a policy have been exhausted making it necessary for them to reverse it. In line with this concept, our party has shown serious interest in re-formulating the policy of nonalignment as a safe haven for the peoples of the Third World.

[Question] Some people believe that the government of Prime Minister Al-Huss is about to resign. What is your appraisal of that government and do you think it is time for the government to quit?

[Answer] The government of Prime Minister Al-Huss was a government of the possible in the circumstances and complex situation in which it emerged. Despite our objection to the factors which governed the formulation of that government, we are not in favor of another attempt, unless such a change of government is necessary as a means of translating national reconciliation into a government of national unity.

The Nationalist Front and the National Movement

[Question] In the light of the present givens in Lebanon, how do you view national action in the Lebanese arena? What are the limits of rapprochement and discord between the nationalist front and the national movement and between the nation movement and the legitimate government?

[Answer] No doubt, national action in the present circumstances is in need of reassessment--politically and organizationally. We believe we are not alone in our views on the nature of national action in Lebanon, although we are among the first to have expressed such views. Politically, our first and major observation concerns the absence of a program which sets priorities in the Lebanese national struggle, especially with regard to the course that is required to re-establish unity in the country, based on an objective awareness of the multiplicity of alliances. The program would include all those who support the unity, sovereignty and Arabism of Lebanon. It would also pay special attention to devising a common language for all those forces in their endeavor to shape positions on the full spectrum of problems and issues as well as pay proper attention to public opinion and all the popular sectors.

On the organizational level, the required formula would be able by itself to translate this political accord into action. The predominant role in such a formula would have to belong to the forces which have a common program, since they would act as a common denominator.

With respect to the relationship between the nationalist front and the national movement, it is one of accord and coordination. As to our attitude toward the legitimate authority, I believe that the national movement does not share a unified position on this matter. We look at the legitimate authority as a symbol of Lebanon's unity and support it on that basis. In so doing, we believe that the first priority is to maintain and preserve the main foundations of the country, not to seek the establishment of the regime which we desire.

Syrian-Iraqi Understanding

[Question] Dr Al-Rafi'i, we heard it said that the settlement of the Lebanese crisis depends on an understanding between Iraq and Syria, especially since it would be easy to find a Maronite party which would accept a settlement that is guaranteed by Baghdad and Damascus. What do you think?

[Answer] This view is a simplification of the Lebanese crisis and its causes, hence a simplification of the required solution. The main feature of our crisis is its complexity. This complexity has resulted from the mesh of internal factors--political, social, sectarian--and Arab and international factors, in addition to Lebanon's geographic position and the presence of the Palestinian resistance movement with all its political, military and informational weight in Lebanon.

The leadership of the party and the revolution in Iraq has repeatedly and on several occasions, especially in statements made by President Saddam Husayn, expressed Iraq's views on the causes of the Lebanese crisis and the means to solve it, and has stated that, "after Palestine, Lebanon is now paying a high price, in behalf of the nation and as an expression of the weakness that grips the nation. Lebanon has become a sacrifice for the sake of the resurgence of the nation and a center exhorting the conscience of the sons of the nation and urging them to return to the source without which the nation cannot rise intellectually, behaviorally or morally."

President Saddam Husayn has also affirmed that "the Lebanese themselves should take the initiative to find the basic framework for a solution of their crisis, taking advantage of their espousal by the Arabs in all Arab conferences," and that "a healthy relationship should emerge among the political forces in Lebanon and between them and the people as well as between them and the Lebanese authority. Only then will there be an authority which can be viewed as the authority of all the people, not the authority of just one or some parties."

Sisterly Syria has also expressed its positions and attitudes toward Lebanon in many ways, either in statements made by Syrian officials on many occasions or through the presence of the Syrian Arab army in Lebanon. This is the most eloquent demonstration of the Syrian authority's interest in Lebanon and in solving its crisis.

Although a settlement of the Lebanese crisis guaranteed by Baghdad and Damascus and acceptable to the Maronite party which is qualified to conduct a dialogue is important to us, inter-Lebanese understanding remains the most important approach to a settlement of the crisis--an approach that should be conducted in conjunction with Iraqi and Syrian support and with the implementation of the resolutions [on Lebanon] adopted by the various Arab conferences, the latest of which is the Arab summit in Tunis.

The Relationship with Iran

[Question] Dr Al-Rafi'i, do you believe that bargaining between Iraq and Iran is more likely than a blowup between them. Do you consider the election of Bani-sadr an indication signaling the first possibility--that is, an Iraqi-Iranian reconciliation?

[Answer] It is probably useful to remind ourselves of the fixed principles on which Iraq's foreign policy is based. Iraq is basically committed to the principles of positive neutrality and nonalignment in its relations with the major powers, and the principles of good neighborhood and respect for the right of peoples to determine their own fates in whichever way they choose and deem proper in its relations with the developing nations that are struggling against all forms of subjugation and injustice.

Iraq's commitment to the principles of neutrality, nonalignment, good neighborly relations, respect for the choices of peoples and support of

their legitimate struggles is a constant strategic line. It is also a constant strategic line of Iraqi policy to work and prepare for the liberation of Palestine and all the other occupied Arab areas and those areas that have been detached from the Arab homeland. Therefore, any state which bases its relations with us on respect, in words and deeds, of the aforementioned principles is bound to be a state with which we will have positive relations and a recognition of reciprocal duties dictated by our aforementioned strategic line.

But if a big power imagined that it can prevent us from following this path, it will find us resisting and challenging it. And if a developing nation tried for one reason or another to overstep in its relations with us the bounds of those constant principles in our policy, we will also confront it to the extent which would check its transgression, because we cannot forget that peoples struggling for political and social liberation--regardless of the nature of their regimes--ultimately respect the convictions of the peoples that share with them the aspirations of political, economic and social emancipation.

The fact is that the Iranian revolution tried for a while to forget what is required by the commitment to those principles. So it had to be reminded, and the Iraqi revolution had to take the position that it took. But now, as the case was in the past and will be in the future, relations between Iraq and Iran are moving in a positive direction to the extent that the Iranian revolution will remain committed to the aforementioned principles which constitute a firm cornerstone of Iraq's foreign policy, namely, good neighborly relations, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, respect for the choices peoples make in building their societies and futures and the principle of not threatening, directly or indirectly, the security of our region.

If this were to take place, then I do not think that there will be any more reason for tension. At any rate, perhaps the multiplicity of the command, leadership and decision-making centers in Tehran in the past was responsible for the rise in the temperature of tension. Now that the Iranian people have elected a republican regime and elected their new president, we hope that this would usher in new, stable relations between the two countries. For regardless of many variations between them in political and ideological orientations, Iraq and Iran are linked together by deep-seated relations, in the forefront of which is the fact that the Iraqi people, who are part of the Arab people, are struggling for unity, political and social emancipation and self determination--which is what the Iranian people are also struggling for.

9254

CSO: 4802

FOOD AID OFFICIAL DISCUSSES CAA'S 1980 PROGRAM

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 28 Feb 80 p 3

[Interview with Maloukiv O. El Hassen, deputy commissioner for food assistance, on 27 February--place not given]

[Text] Maloukiv O. El Hassen, deputy commissioner for food assistance, made a statement to us yesterday in which he explained the various activities of his organization. In addition to the efforts which it exerts to assure food supply to the people, he explained, the Commissariat for Food Assistance [CAA] is also active in the development of the rural sector.

[Question] The Commissariat for Food Assistance is considered by some as an institution for activities in the area of foodstuffs. But the CAA has always helped in activities undertaken in various areas. In this context, what is the CAA's role in the area of rural development?

[Answer] The Commissariat for Food Assistance is considered as an organization active solely in the area of research, and of distribution of foodstuffs for supplying the country with essential commodities.

But besides the efforts which it constantly exerts to assure precisely the supply of the people with grains other than rice, and with supplementary foodstuffs such as powdered milk, oil, butter and dates, the CAA acts also in the development of the rural sector. In this area particularly, it finances small projects undertaken by specialized institutions--ministries or public establishments or regions--in the framework of promoting cultivation, of the struggle against rural exodus, and of [preventing] the transformation of semi-arid zones into desert. Thus, for example, for the last half of 1979 the commissariat granted a loan of 5,500,000 UM to the OMC [Mauritanian Office Grain] for the purchase of 500 tons of palliers [as published] for the peasants of M'Pourie; another of 7,500,000 UM was granted to the Inchiri region for creating and operating small market gardens, designed to partially ease the effects of the closing of the copper mine.

For 1980, the program already in force entails essentially the following actions:

1. A subsidy put at the disposal of the Ministry of Rural Development to provide a store of water designed for watering Livestock in the regions of the Tiris Zemour and Dakhlet Nouadhibou.
2. An amount of 8 million UM will be appropriated for the District of Nouakchott for management of 400 parcels of land in the peripheral zones.
3. A subsidy of 10 million UM will allow the Brakna region to construct and maintain a certain number of small dams, to drill some wells for livestock and to plant trees.

The loans and subsidies are generally supplied by surplus funds from the sale of foodstuffs after paying the costs of receiving, storage and distribution.

Unfortunately, these costs are so high that the surpluses released only allow financing of isolated actions on a small scale.

This time only the three regions above will be able to benefit from the cash subsidies this year. On the other hand, the CAA expects to undertake a vast program of action in all the regions in collaboration with the authorities and regional communities and thanks to the valuable and generous cooperation of the World Food Program; the cost of the program is estimated at about 250 million ouguiya.

This program will consist basically of free distribution of 10,000 tons of wheat, 1,000 tons of powdered skim milk, and 672 tons of vegetable oils to the communities participating in carrying out small projects of the agricultural, livestock and social infrastructure....

There, roughly and in summary fashion, you have the CAA's activities outside the strictly foodstuffs program.

It can be estimated that, for 1979-80, the developmental activity of the Commissariat for Food Assistance will be about 286 million ouguiya.

[Question] What are practical ways for benefiting from the CAA's subsidies?

[Answer] To benefit from these subsidies, a certain number of criteria must be met before we can take action.

Among these criteria, there is first the financial means of which the commissariat disposes; unfortunately, as I have told you, the resources are limited, and thus the activities and the subsidies can only be limited. This is why several regions are chosen sometimes in terms of priorities and in

terms of certain criteria including the availability and size of the project. You will understand that the regions retained are those which are most affected by drought.

It is in those terms that the subsidies are given to regions to permit them to undertake a minimum of activity with a view to improving their condition.

5586
CSO: 4400

MINISTER OF PLANNING DISCUSSES THIRD FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Dammam AL-IQTISAD in Arabic Feb 80 pp 4-5

[Article: Features of the Third Development Plan: Reduction in Investment for Infrastructure; No Increase in Foreign Labor Force's Present Size"]

[Text] An open forum with Minister of Planning Shaykh Hisham Nazir was held at the University of Riyadh. The minister of planning spoke about the strategy of the third development plan and the importance of the plan's main features. Shaykh Hisham Nazir stated that a team of young Saudi university professors and scientists from various disciplines had been charged by the council of ministers to draw up this plan's strategy.

The objective of this method was participation of young, national elements in shaping the future of their country and determining the circumstances, requirements and projects of this country.

In view of the importance of this open forum, AL-IQTISAD is publishing it here as it occurred.

Shaykh Hisham Nazir stated that a committee chaired by the minister of interior, and composed of the ministers of justice, education, labor and social affairs, had been charged by the council of ministers to review the team's completed work.

The committee did not change a great deal of the young Saudi team's work pertaining to the strategy of this plan. It was submitted to the council of ministers, where His Majesty the King approved it, a matter that bestows great honor upon the Kingdom's youth.

The minister of planning said that the new plan's strategy is composed of 12 articles resulting from the exhaustive studies. They concentrate on preserving the religious and moral values of the Kingdom's people, consolidating defense and internal security, training of human forces so that they can share effectively in the economic and social life, safeguarding

natural resources and their exploitation so as not to rely completely on petroleum, and to build the general infrastructure. The minister referred to the fact that the first two development plans had followed a balanced strategy, since there was a need for that. Most of the investments in the second plan, some 80 percent, went toward the basic infrastructure, such as roads and schools. As for the third plan, the strategy committee decided that the percentage of investment in the infrastructure must be reduced, provided that an equivalent amount be used to increase investments in the production sectors and to train human resources.

The minister explained that in view of the Kingdom's population being concentrated in the cities, it was thought appropriate to devote some attention to the cities, providing that the present size of the foreign labor force in the Kingdom is not increased, in view of the fact that this is tied to the rate of inflation which is itself probably related to the size of expenditures of the state.

The strategy also takes into account encouraging maintenance programs, since the coming phase will see the completion of several projects. Many of these will shift into operational and maintenance phases. The strategy also takes into account the diversity of citizens by means of diverse educational programs.

The minister of planning said that the second development plan would end in 5 months. Its results would be announced then. He added that a report had been submitted to the council of ministers that, in the fourth year of the plan, the growth rate of the private sector had risen to 23.6 percent. This is a very high rate and is indicative of the vitality of the Kingdom's economy and people.

He pointed out that the second development plan had exceeded some of the goals set for that 5-year period.

He went on to say that certainly bottlenecks confront growth operations, but the crucial thing is to overcome these bottlenecks. The only bottleneck which will face the third development plan is that of the labor force.

It was evident that the second development plan had produced bottlenecks which were expected at that time, such as in ports, housing and labor sectors. Appropriate solutions for them were produced and active alternatives must be pursued by the government. Part of the inflation was due to the lack of basic infrastructure; making this infrastructure available decreased the need for it from 56 percent to 8.8 percent last year.

He said that, with respect to the problem of the labor force, there is only one of two matters before us: either continue to depend upon foreign labor, or reduce the developmental programs until a point of equilibrium is reached between the two issues.

The minister stressed the importance of citizen awareness of the development operation. He said that awareness is pursued through meetings and films and through the ministry of information. Agreement is being reached with Riyadh university to invite students to visit the operations room in the ministry of planning, to observe the Kingdom through motion pictures and to become reassured as to accomplishments in various fields.

He said that the private sector will have a bigger role in the third development plan, in view of the fact that part of the investment will be shifted from the infrastructure sector to the production sectors. A portion of this investment will be allocated to lender banks, industry and to electrical and other utility companies operated by the private sector.

He mentioned that this strategy is by its nature long-term and is aimed ultimately at changing the Kingdom's people from people who depend on the government and subsidies to people who are able to produce and want to earn a living. He pointed out that the private sector had not yet been able to exploit all the opportunities provided for it by the government.

He indicated that the development objectives are by their nature long-range goals, but their details take into account current needs as far as possible. The six goals mentioned in both the first and second development plans will be the goals of the third five-year plan, because they are long-range goals.

The minister of planning said that the Kingdom's natural resources were being depleted and would be used up someday. They must be replaced by another source of wealth, and the people of this country must become capable of earning a living in any place. This is the focus of our thinking at the present time, he said. He added: "We want to profitably invest our capital and we endeavor through industry to train the Saudi manpower." He indicated that there are large mineral resources, but that these areas have not as yet been discovered.

With regard to coordination in executing various projects for the Kingdom's cities, the minister said that he felt that coordination should be entrusted to local committees. "We were successful in Riyadh through the committee chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh province. However, it was not successful in other cities of the Kingdom."

He said that there was another way. Each city could have a plan prepared through the central agencies of the ministries. However, there certainly should be a long-range plan for each city. A test of this method is now underway in al-Jubayl and Yanba', since their projects are being implemented by one governmental agency.

Regarding development of the Kingdom's provinces, the minister said that the ministries of planning, interior, social affairs and rural affairs had

carried out an extensive study of all the provinces and had selected provinces for development. This would encourage citizens to invest and to live in them. Several provinces would be included in the third development plan.

He added that regarding establishing universities in the various provinces, the matter would depend upon several considerations, including population density and the growth of the numbers of students in existing universities. However, redistribution of existing universities should not be considered, in view of the fact that many new advantageous factors are taken into account upon establishing a new university.

He stressed that there is constant followup on the implementation of development programs, and benefit is derived from various tests through which the development programs pass.

The minister of planning also emphasized the importance of the role of women in the development plan. He said that they were the primary and largest motivating force behind the success of any society and that the state considers them as citizens no less than men.

He added that the development plan was equally for men and women. "We believe that the home is the most important focal point, and they run the home. We are proud of the share they have had in our Islamic society throughout history." He said that development was for all the Kingdom's people, male and female.

The minister also stressed the importance of educational upbringing. He said that the home comes first, because that was the place for a human being's education.

At the close of the forum, which lasted 2 hours, Dr Mansur al-Turki, director of Riyadh University, said a few words in which he expressed his gratitude to the minister and the university students. Dr Mansur said that he will open the King Khalid University Hospital which is under his responsibility next September.

7005

CSO: 4802

REPORT ON PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE PRIVATE ECONOMIC SECTOR

Dammam AL-IQTISAD in Arabic Jan 80 pp 40-44, 51

[Article: "The Private Sector in the Kingdom; Its Participation in Economic Growth"]

[Text] The Industrial Chamber of Commerce in Riyadh has made a comprehensive study aimed at defining the obstacles and problems confronting the private sector in the Kingdom, so that this vital sector could play its full role in hastening economic and social growth in the Kingdom.

The study relies upon field research and private meetings with a number of importers and businessmen in three cities, Riyadh, Jiddah and Dammam. The study also covers several sectors--hotels, banks, import-exports, commercial services, and industrial contracts.

The study is tantamount to a comprehensive report on the problems along with proposals to solve them. AL-IQTISAD is publishing this study because of its importance and the role of the private sector in sharing in economic growth.

Chapter One

Problems Faced by the Private Sector

The main difficulties which still hinder the expansion of the business sector and the development of projects in the private sector are: severe shortage of labor; inflated investments required for real estate; severe shortage of information, including communications' difficulties; inadequate regulatory framework; length of time required for routine actions; difficulty in reaching agreements with contractors; interference with the mechanics of the marketplace; shortage of financial institutions; shortage of basic equipment, especially transportation.

The following is an analysis, summarizing these problems.

First: Labor.

The problem of the severe shortage of labor, despite an awareness of its importance as an obstacle to the growth of the various economic sectors and their effectiveness in defining the Kingdom's potentialities to speed up economic and social growth, has not been sufficiently studied or researched. The business sector suffers from a severe scarcity of Saudi labor, and there has been a notable rise in the costs of imported labor.

A. Saudi Labor

There are obvious shortfalls in Saudi human skills, both in quantity and diversity. The shortage of quantity of Saudi labor in the business sector stems from:

1. The Kingdom's small population; this is a general problem which cannot be solved in the short run.
2. Negation of possibilities of women sharing in work by society's traditions.
3. The requirement for all graduates of universities and higher institutions to work solely for governmental agencies for a period not less than the period of study, and preemptive employment [by the government] of the largest possible number of Saudi workers.
4. Misuse of Saudi workers by governmental agencies. A phenomenon being noted is the redundancy of employees in several governmental agencies in a way that ensures hidden idleness and work duplication in these agencies. In addition, many of these employees work in jobs for which they are not qualified. The adoption of labor practices from underdeveloped countries, which give special priority to the creation of employment opportunities to reduce unemployment, aids in maintaining these phenomena.
5. A lack of interest in organizing labor markets. At a time when relative unemployment in its various types is spreading in some of the provinces far from the populated centers, the main cities suffer from a severe shortage of labor. At a time when some professions and occupations suffer from a severe shortage of labor, some activities suffer from inflated numbers of workers.

As regards qualitative aspects, there is a general decrease in Saudi productivity for the following main reasons:

1. Poor connection between curricula and training programs and the country's labor requirements.
2. Shortfalls in practical experience and scientific qualifications.

3. The tendency of Saudi workers in general to take it easy and avoid hard work.
4. Poor enthusiasm for training and development of skills; a lack of seriousness in acquiring modern technological knowledge.
5. The narrow range of Saudi youth aspirations, generally, to achieve important accomplishments, because of environmental, social and educational reasons.
6. Decrease in Saudi labor stability for several reasons, the most important being the modern habit of being regulated by working hours and incessant concern for production.

B. Foreign Labor

We can describe present actions to import labor from outside the Kingdom as being very complicated and unclear. Decisions regarding businessmen's requests to bring in labor required to complete implementation of the terms of their contracts and to operate their projects is slow. Recently, in fact, it has frequently been necessary to haggle just to maintain the number of laborers a businessman has, let alone obtain the number he needs. There is no acceptable justification for this type of situations. It leads more to fraudulent practices than to limiting the importation of labor.

It has been noted that the routine, administrative obstacles to importing labor have not been confined to the office of immigration, but rather extend to the foreign ministry and embassies abroad.

The potential security risks and social ills which could result from an unrestrained flow of foreign workers must be acknowledged. However, it must be stressed that present procedures for importing workers constitute an important obstacle which limits expansion of commercial activities in the Kingdom, a main reason for delay in completing contracts and implementing projects of all types. Moreover, it is a factor in raising the cost of employing labor imported from abroad.

Second: Inflated Investments Required for Real Estate

Land and buildings generally represent an important element in terms of production. In the Kingdom, a group of factors in the last few years has led to an enormous increase in the cost of land and in building rents, including those suitable for use as showrooms or commercial warehouses. This increases the amount of funds required for commercial activities. In fact, investment required for real estate has in recent times become not only an important percentage of total investment required for most enterprises in the Kingdom, but has become the most important single factor responsible for unprofitable commercial projects. The leading reasons for the high prices of land are as follows:

1. Enormous expansion in demand for real estate property, because of the increase in population and the increase in concentrations in the principal cities, in addition to the rise in cash flow.
2. Lack of sufficiently rapid expansion in land area suitable for exploitation, that is, provided with all services and utilities.
3. Increased concentration of [ownership] of real estate properties.
4. Major increase in real estate speculation.

Third: Information and Communications

Information and communications represent a basic element of production, just as much as labor and capital. The importance of information and communications becomes apparent in the need for their availability to guarantee that sound decisions will be made about entering into new spheres of business, expanding existing businesses, and planning the size of ventures. In this regard, lack of information and coordination with the private sector regarding a government decision to reduce expenditures on [certain projects] led to considerable financial losses for a number of businessmen.

Generally, the lack of information and communications involves the following aspects:

1. A shortage of statistics and information, especially pertaining to population and governmental agencies' programs, and information regarding sources of natural and mineral resources.
2. A shortage of available information about investment opportunities offered in various business fields, specifically in industry, mining, agriculture and the principal services in which the private sector could have a share.
3. The refusal of most governmental agencies to make available information and statistics, which businessmen request. This is sometimes done under the pretext of classified information, despite the clear lack of benefit from secrecy. Examples of this are information in the [five-year] plan and details of state projects authorized in the general budget.
4. Unclear procedures required to fulfill regulatory conditions to obtain certain permitted incentives to direct businessmen toward desirable ventures, specifically in the agricultural and industrial domains, or to obtain specific licences, such as a license to prospect for mineral wealth, which sometimes takes more than 3 years to obtain.
5. A serious weakness in the official media with regard to publishing governmental regulations and decisions. The [method of] distribution of newspaper UMM AL-QURA is an example of this.

6. Slowness of governmental agencies' compliance with the wishes of the industrial Chamber of Commerce in improving communications between governmental agencies and the private sector.

Fourth: Regulatory Framework

Expansion in business activity is subject to the existence of clear regulations in defining laws and obligations of commercial transactions. In this regard, it has become apparent that business activity in the Kingdom suffers from the following regulatory difficulties:

1. Inadequate means of present litigation to settle cases at issue between the government and the private sector. No independent body exists to settle such disputes, since the Board of Grievances, with its present system and methods, is inadequate for this purpose.
2. Absence of a system of laws for industrial property and patents. Without such a system, it is impossible to introduce some complex industries, such as medicinal and other chemical industries into the Kingdom.
3. Inadequate system of commercial relations.
4. Lack of a unified system to settle commercial disputes.
5. Absence of regulatory measures regarding the recovery of banking debts and the non-application of a system of commercial notes.
6. Non-existent system of commercial agencies.
7. Ineffective structure for the industrial Chamber of Commerce.
8. Poor overseeing of the implementation of commercial regulations, and of the system to protect and promote national industries.

Fifth: Governmental Bidding System

Governmental agencies are considered the biggest customer in the contemporary Saudi economy. Therefore, organizing their purchases and facilitating their procedures for the benefit of Saudi businessmen ought to give a strong boost to the expansion of business activity in the Kingdom. It is noted that most of the governmental purchases and contracts are still going to foreign firms and contractors, despite the Chamber of Commerce's continued attempts to persuade the responsible agencies that giving preference to local businessmen is a legitimate right practiced by many of the world's nations in order to encourage their citizens, so long as it is not incompatible with the principle of competition and the standards of excellence required. As for foreign firms operating in the Kingdom, they are anxious that all their contractors be foreigners and limited to the same country

that the firms are associated with. Furthermore, they try to obtain all their commodity requirements from abroad, even if they are not significant, such as foodstuffs and simple consumer goods available on the local market. On the other hand, the specifications which foreign consulting firms draw up, confirm their bias for their country.

Industrialists in the Kingdom suffer most from the difficulties of governmental purchases, since the government usually prefers imported products to their products without any acceptable justification. Rather, it sometimes sets things up in such a way as to justify reliance on the outside to supply the governmental agencies' requirements of goods and services. As evidence of this, the government generally seeks to delay announcement of bids regarding the printing of books required by the educational agencies, in order to make it impossible for the local printing houses to print and deliver them by the required date. The government then obtains them outside the Kingdom, despite the existence of local printing establishments with acceptable quality and prices. During the past year, the ministry of industry has tried to stimulate governmental purchases from local industry and to issue appropriate regulations to spur on purchases from national industry. However, what counts is compliance with such regulations, not their mere existence on the books.

Industrialists are also concerned about the continuation of unlicensed industrial units belonging to foreign contractors. Of course, the products of these compete with those of existing domestic industry.

As regards Saudi contractors, it has become clear that they suffer from a group of difficulties in dealing with governmental agencies. These difficulties begin with the terms of the contract itself, which usually takes the form of a contract of compliance incorporating all the laws benefiting the specific governmental agency and heaping all sorts of obligations on the contractor. Generally, the difficulties encountered by contractors dealing with governmental agencies include the following principal points:

1. The governmental agency concerned dictates conditions and has unilateral right to settle disputes which arise over interpretation and execution of the contract.
2. The list of invitations pertaining to large and sometimes medium contracts is limited to foreign contractors, since it disqualifies the usually small Saudi contractors without acceptable justifications.
3. Saudi contractors' weak negotiating position is taken advantage of through inclusion of unfair conditions in their contracts.
4. The governmental contract does not contain a clause giving the contracting party an opportunity to review contractual costs subject to inflation or to change due to delays in implementation, changes in specifications, or work stoppages ordered by a governmental agency.

5. Risks of penalties for delay even in circumstances caused by the governmental agency itself or another agency concerned with this delay.
6. Injurious delay in paying money due to a contractor without acceptable justification.

Sixth: Mechanics of the Marketplace

While acknowledging the need to protect consumer interests, excessive restriction of the movement of prices tends to hinder expansion of the availability of goods. Therefore, the mechanics of the marketplace must be depended on to correct the gap between supply and demand of goods and services in the long run. It has been noted that the time has come to lift controls on prices of some goods and concentrate on encouraging competition in the market, provided that subsidies of principal foodstuffs and controls on prices of medicines continue.

Seventh: Financial Services

The difficulties from which the private sector suffers in the field of financial services include the following:

1. Shortage of banks and poor standards of banking services.
2. Increased banking fees.
3. Lack of experience within the business community in dealing with world financial markets.

As regards banking institutions themselves, it has become clear that they are exposed at present to some competition by banks of the free zones (OFF SHORE).

Eighth: Infrastructure

The business sector still suffers from a severe shortage of basic equipment and services, a leading example being the shortage of roads and the rising costs of transportation, along with the difficulty of obtaining several basic services, such as electricity, water, sewers, telephones and telex. This is in addition to the poor standard of air transport services and postal services. The cities also suffer from narrow streets and unavailable parking for cars, along with a notable shortage of health services.

Chapter Two

Proposed Solutions To Overcome the Problems

The private sector's effectiveness in the economic development of the Kingdom could be increased by removing or overcoming the obstacles and

difficulties which limit the expansion of activities in this sector and prevent it from playing a more complete role. In the preceding review, the most important problems from which the private sector suffers were analyzed. It is to be noted that some of these difficulties are short-term, that is to say that they are about to be eliminated. An example is the shortage of basic equipment. Presently the government is doing its best to fulfill this. As for some of the other problems, such as the incessant shortage of Saudi labor, both in quantity and diversity, it is obvious that by its very nature this is a long-term problem. Therefore, the proposed solutions to overcome problems include short-term solutions which require nothing more than issuing an order or amending one, and long-term solutions dictated by the very nature of the problem. The following is a group of proposals which could possibly provide guidance for overcoming the main obstacles facing business activity in the Kingdom during the third five-year development plan.

First: Labor

1. Prepare an exhaustive economic and social study of the labor force in the Kingdom, especially focusing attention on the following points:
 - A. Quantitative evaluation of the size of the labor force and employed workers, both Saudi and non-Saudi, according to skills and main labor cadres.
 - B. The country's labor requirements and expected future development of these requirements both within and outside the Kingdom, including the role of Saudi women in reducing the severe labor shortage, the causes of the decline of productivity, worker instability, and the possibilities of improving these circumstances during this same period.
2. Draw up a comprehensive population policy, taking into account the country's labor force requirements, including a review of the system of immigration and naturalization.
3. Draw up a clear, national policy to train the labor force.
4. Reshape the policy of education and its curricula at all stages.
5. Encourage the private sector generally to fulfill its role in training and developing the scholastic, technical and administrative skills required to conduct its activities, and offer the Industrial Chamber of Commerce the opportunity to share in drawing up the required training program.
6. Define the size of growth projects, especially infrastructure projects, in light of the country's population count and the labor requirements of these projects in both operation and maintenance stages. In this regard, for example, it is said that operation and maintenance of the Jiddah international airport (under construction) will require an estimated 40,000 employees.

7. Awareness of the importance of concern for national, administrative and technical actions to achieve growth objectives.

8. Preparation of suitable regulatory modifications, as soon as possible, to allow complete freedom for university and institutional graduates to choose their appropriate kind of work in the private sector or with governmental agencies.

9. Facilitate measures to import foreign workers.

Second: Investments Required for Real Estate

Establishment of commercial areas, on the model of industrial parks, in which land, commercial warehouses and exhibition buildings would be leased at nominal rents, especially in the principal cities and ports.

Third: Information and Communications

1. Require governmental agencies to furnish the council of Industrial Chambers of Commerce with two copies of all published reports and statistics, as well as regulations and amendments, as soon as they are issued. In addition, information available about the government's principal projects, especially those authorized in the budget, should be furnished.

2. Work to improve the variety of statistics available regarding commercial activities, along with expansion of the reportable base.

3. Recognize the need for consultation and coordination with the Chamber of Commerce before taking any decisions regarding economic policies or issuing or amending any regulations affecting the private sector in the Kingdom.

4. Encourage systematic, periodic communications between businessmen and officials to create a better climate for cooperation and the development of mutual trust. The Chamber should be able to play an important role in this field.

Fourth: Regulatory Framework

1. Create an independent, judicial commission to settle disputes arising between governmental agencies and the private sector.

2. Promulgate a system of industrial property laws and patents.

3. Review the present system of trademarks.

4. Review the present system of settling commercial disputes.

5. Apply the system of commercial notes.

Fifth: Governmental Purchases and Contracts

1. Require governmental agencies to apply the principle of balanced rights in drafting the ground rules and conditions of government contracts.
2. Reserve some business contracts and purchases for Saudi contractors, merchants and industrialists. Chambers of Commerce could possibly assist in defining the framework of ground rules which would govern this preferential treatment without violating the principle of competition.
3. Give preference to Saudi businessmen generally when their prices are equal to foreign prices, or exceed them by not more than 10 percent, providing suitable quality.
4. Classify Saudi contractors, and thereby possibly disqualify a large number of unqualified foreign contractors.
5. Require all foreign firms which obtain contracts of any type with the state to give preference to Saudi businessmen in their contracts and their purchases of goods produced domestically or available in local markets.
6. Urge the ministry of industry and electricity to oversee the application of regulations and decisions pertaining to the encouragement and protection of national industry.
7. Require governmental agencies to divide large projects [into smaller ones] and invite separate bids [on each] whenever possible, in order to adapt them to the capabilities of Saudi contractors. Examples [of projects which could be divided] are telephone, central electricity, housing, military compounds, ports and airports projects.
8. Cooperate with Chambers of Commerce in reviewing present measures for inviting bids, for the purpose of simplifying them and shortening the decision-making time. Also, simplify present procedures regarding disbursement of payments owed to contractors.
9. Create a committee to settle disputes arising between industrialists and governmental agencies in the event the latter refuse to comply with regulations pertaining to the encouragement of national industrial products.
10. Require governmental agencies to accept the principle of arbitration in settling disputes arising from interpretation and implementation of their contracts, and to refrain from deciding them by unilateral decree issued by these agencies. An article to this effect should be inserted in all governmental contracts with Saudi businessmen.

Sixth: Price Controls

There is a need to rectify the experiment of price control.

Seventh: Infrastructure and Utilities

Special importance ought to be given, during the period of the third five-year plan, to the improvement of the land, air and railway transportation network between the main cities in the Kingdom, and to encourage the establishment of a private airline company, apart from the Saudi Airline, to operate within the Kingdom. This would be in addition to improving city planning, widening streets, creating public parking for automobiles, and bolstering basic services.

Chapter Three

Areas for Expansion of the Business Sector

The Kingdom's national revenue accounts indicate that the product of the nonpetroleum private sector was able to jump from around 9 billion riyals in 1974-75 to around 15 billion riyals in 1977-78, the latest available reporting year for national revenue. Therefore, the product of the non-petroleum private sector registered an average of real growth amounting to 18 percent a year during the first 3 years of the second five-year development plan. This rapid expansion of the private sector during this period has resulted in increasing its relative share of the total domestic product from 27.9 percent in 1974-75 to around 33.5 percent in 1977-78.

There are possibilities of increasing the relative share of the private sector in the total domestic product by means of increasing the effectiveness of the business sector in speeding up economic growth in the Kingdom. This could be done by providing suitable circumstances for the expansion of the business sector in the following principal directions:

1. Vertically, by developing and deepening the size of present business sector activities, by eliminating the obstacles and difficulties which the existing commercial projects face and by providing a suitable climate for their expansion.
2. Horizontally, by adding new activities to the business sector. The business sector in the Kingdom has become better qualified than at any time in the past to venture into large commercial projects, such as heavy industrialization and certain utility projects and services such as land, air and sea transportation, public warehouses and telephone services. However, the financial capabilities and administrative skills required to construct and operate these projects by the private sector still require a large measure of government support. It is believed that full information about investment opportunities offered in these areas should be made available to businessmen. Also, encouragement should be given to joint Saudi-foreign projects which would attract private investment into fields of basic mining and petrochemical industrialization, which are presently taken over by the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Company (SABIC). As a

minimum, the private sector could participate in SABIC projects [in their initial phase] and then participate in the joint projects between the government and the private sector, along the lines of the "Safco" fertilizer company.

3. Decrease interference with the mechanics of the marketplace, concentrate on encouraging free competition and increase the private sector's role in planning growth efforts and implementing development projects. It is clear that the third five-year plan has been concerned with moving in this direction.

Chapter Four

New Incentives

As regards new incentives, they can be summarized mainly in simplifying regulatory procedures, shortening the time it takes to decide on a businessman's requests, speed up payment of claims by governmental agencies, and giving Saudi business priority whenever it fulfills required conditions.

Accordingly, with the exception of the need to encourage the private sector [by insuring availability of] technical and administrative manpower requirements, it is not evident that there is a need for additional financial incentives. However, moral incentives and improving the attitude of some governmental agencies in dealing with businessmen could play an important role in energizing the private sector and inducing it to seek vertical and horizontal expansion. For purposes of defining the incentives required in the next phase, one could repeat here some of the solutions proposed to overcome obstacles facing the business sector, including:

1. Increase efforts to apply preferential treatment to products of domestic industry in governmental purchases.
2. Study the possibility of expanding the preferential treatment of domestic industry to cover [small] Saudi contractors.
3. Allow freedom to Saudi graduates of universities and institutes to work in the private sector.
4. Improve educational systems and training programs in a way that implants in graduates a love of work, self-sacrifice and the desire to increase productivity.
5. Reduce the time required for decision-making with regard to business sector requests.

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FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM DISCUSSES INTER-ARAB RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 10 Feb 80 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam conducted by Paris Arabic weekly AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Damascus, date not given: "Syria Fights Great National Battle Against Israel and Imperialism; We Are in Favor of Deployment of the Lebanese Army In Every Inch of the South; It Is Not in Our Interest To Be Tools of the Americans in Fighting the Soviets"]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, asserts that Syria is fighting a great national battle against Israel and against Zionist and imperialist policy in the region.

This came in an interview with Khaddam in the Lebanese Arabic weekly magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI which is published in Paris.

Khaddam asserted: "Syrian unity is not a subject of debate or doubt for any Syrian citizen. Anyone who believes that Zionism can toy with Syria's national unity is badly mistaken."

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: "Those who bet on [unfavorable] developments in Syria and in the Syrian internal situation are badly mistaken and live in a world of fantasy far removed from the most elementary facts of matters."

The complete text of the interview follows:

[Question] The recent cabinet changes came as a result of internal factors in Syria. Are these changes guaranteed to remedy the situation?

[Answer] The Party Congress, which is the highest authority, conducted a thorough review of our various internal conditions, and took a number of

decisions and measures which will tend to remedy some of the flaws and negative factors in our internal situation. These flaws and negative factors do exist. The president has talked about them on various occasions and the party leadership dealt with them in a statement published at the time.

It's a natural thing. We cannot say that we do not have flaws and negative factors. There are flaws and negative factors which have been discussed in the Party Congress. Decisions and measures have been taken to deal with them. The big change in the party leadership and the government came about in this context.

[Question] Is the blowing up of the Syrian Embassy in Paris connected with the internal situation in Syria? And what is your view on the comments that some people are making about the existence of a plan aimed at weakening Syria's internal situation in this particular period.

[Answer] We are fighting a great national battle against Israel and Zionist and imperialist policy in the region. Naturally, as our national stature grows in magnitude, so do the plots aimed against it. The operation against the Syrian Embassy in Paris was definitely prepared and organized by Israeli intelligence. And I say further that those who bet on [unfavorable] developments in Syria and in the Syrian internal situation are badly mistaken and live in a world of fantasy far removed from the most elementary facts of the matter. In any case, there were many who bet [against] the situation in Syria, but it is sound. The occurrence of some terrorist incidents has absolutely no effect. Such incidents occur in every part of the world, including Paris. The attack on the Syrian Embassy was an act of terrorism. Naturally, the French have no connection with it, but it occurred in Paris. The week will not pass by without an act of terrorism in France, or Britain or West Germany. But this does not in any way mean that the French, British or West German government is unstable.

[Question] It has been said repeatedly that there are foreign powers--Arab powers, to be exact--behind the terrorist actions now occurring in Syria.

[Answer] Our assessment is that Israeli intelligence is behind these operations. Of course it uses certain Arab tools. But these operations are carried out in the interest of Israel.

[Question] There is a fear that Syria will witness events similar to those which have occurred in Lebanon.

[Answer] These are the dreams of Israel. Syria's national unity is not a subject of debate or doubt for any citizen in Syria, and those who believe that Zionism can toy with Syria's national unity are badly mistaken. France tried to partition Syria into five states, as we know. Nevertheless, these five states were only able to exist for a limited period of

time. Numerous French attempts occurred after that during the French mandate over Syria. After independence, there were further attempts, first by British circles and then at the hands of American intelligence. From the time of independence until today, Syria has been subjected to plots more than any other country has. In spite of this Syria has remained steadfast, and I say that anyone who imagines that Zionism is capable of breaching the wall of national unity of the Arab people in Syria is badly mistaken.

[Question] What is behind what Syria is going through, and are you satisfied with the internal situation?

[Answer] What is sought is the elimination of Syria's pan-Arab role in the Arab-Israeli struggle. This is the goal, but it will not be achieved. The people of Syria will inevitably be in the vanguard to battle anything which threatens the Arab homeland.

[Question] The withdrawal of the Syrian forces acting within the framework of the Arab Deterrent Force from the southern coastal strip has raised many questions. What are the motives which caused Syria to make this decision?

[Answer] The decision to pull a military unit out of Saida must not be given the dimensions which you have given it. The internal situation in Lebanon has been frozen for a long time. All the sides are still in their positions and are not moving toward national concord. We want our brothers in Lebanon to become aware of how very important it is for them to work to restore national concord and harmony, and strengthen progress toward the unity of Lebanon and its institutions. Any move on our part has been and always will be in this framework.

[Question] A number of interpretations have been given to the Syrian move, including these:

First, that it is linked to a Syrian fear that Israel will launch a military strike; second, that it is linked to developments in Syria's internal situation; and third, that it has come as a result of specific Syrian reservations about the entrance of the army into the area of the south.

[Answer] First, the move has no relation to the situation between us and Israel, because the size of the force that was withdrawn is small. Second, there are no internal developments in Syria, and anyone who believes or wagers that there are such developments is living in a fantasy. The force which was withdrawn from Saida is now stationed in al-Biq'a'.

Third, as I said, we want the internal situation in Lebanon to move toward stimulation of the process of national concord.

[Question] What is the truth about the reservations of Syria regarding the entrance of the Lebanese army into the south and its deployment at this stage?

[Answer] If we had a key in our pocket which would open the door to the south, we would hand it over to the Lebanese Government. We are in favor of the entrance of the Lebanese Army into every inch of the south. This was our position at the Tunis summit conference, and we will continue to hold this position, because we believe that the presence of the Lebanese Army in the south is an important and a national issue. The Lebanese armed forces' assuming of their responsibilities vis-a-vis the Israeli enemy is also an important issue with political, psychological and moral meanings.

[Question] Then who holds the key to the south?

[Answer] If the key were in our pocket, we would hand it over to the Lebanese Government on a silver platter. I believe that the key is to be found in Lebanon and Beirut [in particular].

[Question] What is your view of the present situation in Lebanon?

[Answer] It is frozen. Really frozen. And this is not in Lebanon's interest.

[Question] Is this due to internal or external factors?

[Answer] No one is endeavoring to create internal factors which will bring about national reconciliation, and no one is endeavoring to eliminate the external factors which block progress of the national reconciliation movement.

[Question] Are you apprehensive under the present circumstances that Israel might launch a military strike across southern Lebanon or somewhere else?

[Answer] Conflict does exist between us and Israel. As to intensification of military activity, or the undertaking by Israel of a [military] action, this is possible in the context of world developments. Such a military move by Israel is not improbable, but then it is not improbable that no such move will be made. It is a matter of probabilities.

[Question] What are the direct repercussions of the events in Afghanistan on the Arab situation as a whole, looking at it from the standpoint of Syria which adopted a (unique) position?

[Answer] Our view or our position on any incident in any region of the world is based on the effect this event has on our struggle with Israel. Based on what best serves this struggle, we take this or that position. We think that one of the reasons for the information campaign that the United States and Israel, as well as Egypt, have launched is to cover up the Camp David policy in the region and its current phase of normalizing relations and signing a [Palestinian] autonomy agreement between Sadat and Israel.

When the nation is faced with an issue affecting its destiny, no voice should be raised to cloud this issue. This was the first consideration in the position we took. Therefore, we were intent on calling for postponement of the Islamic Conference for an appropriate period of time so that the Afghanistan issue would not overshadow the issue of Palestine.

The second consideration is that this dispute or conflict is between the Soviets and the Americans. The matter does not in any way relate to Islam. Afghanistan became a communist state 2 years ago. If there had been reactions at that time in defense of Islam, it would have been a different matter. [But at present,] what is new in Afghanistan? Was there an Islamic regime which has been replaced by a communist regime?

Afghanistan has been a Marxist state for 2 years. Consequently, [the source of] the outcry is obvious; it is an American outcry. The contest between the United States and the Soviet Union is part of the international detente process and the faltering of this process at this stage. It is not in the interest of the Arabs to become a part of this contest, because polarization of the Arabs on this issue would divide them, and this would impact our struggle with Israel.

We have been striving intently for years to strengthen Arab solidarity and concentrate all Arab efforts on the struggle with Israel. When the Arabs become involved in an issue with which they have no direct connection--an issue which in fact is linked to a considerable degree to the contest between the Americans and the Soviets--the situation does not serve the main thrust of the Arabs in their struggle against Israel.

The battle [in Afghanistan] is the "battle of the Americans." They wanted to fight the Soviets in certain Islamic nations. If it were otherwise, we would have seen the positions [of other nations] take a different direction.

Here is the question: Why is it that NATO meets and does not adopt any resolutions, and yet the Islamic states are supposed to meet and adopt resolutions? Europe itself, which is concerned with the course of the international conflict and is directly affected by the issue of detente, did not adopt a unified position. There were diverse European positions. With the exception of Britain, the majority of these positions proceeded from dedication to the policy of detente. It would appear that some British circles dream of a return to the policy of the British Empire. Of course, these dreams ignore, or seek to ignore, the vast and profound international developments of the past 30 years. So long as the matter pertains to the contest between the Americans and the Soviets, we, the Arabs, have no interest in being a party to it or in becoming a tool in the hands of one side or the other.

The third consideration is this: the United States sides with Israel, since American circles affirm on various occasions that Israel's security

is part of American security, and these circles regard Israel as a vanguard with respect to American security.

Thus, we observe that all past efforts to push the United States a matter of inches in favor of the Arab position have failed. All of us know the amount of military aid which the United States provides to Israel. If the Americans remain like this and regard Israeli security as a part of American security, what interest do the Arabs have in taking a position of confrontation against the Soviets? By doing this, they would not win over the Americans, and they would lose the Soviet Union.

What alternative would the Arabs be left with but to submit to Israel in an era when power dominates international politics? Is it in the Arabs' interest to remain weak or become weak in this international climate, or is it in their interest to be strong, or at least to keep the doors open for them to become strong?

The fourth consideration is that with regard to the United States, [their] Afghanistan operation amounts to an election rally. A case in point here is that when America was serious in fighting the Arabs, it offered Israel \$2 billion in military aid a year. Now, it is trying to get Pakistan involved in fighting the Soviet Union with an offer of \$200 million a year for 2 years. This numerical comparison illustrates just how serious the American position is, and it shows clearly that the United States intends to launch a mobilization campaign to put pressure on the Soviet Union, not a mobilization campaign for the purpose of fighting the Soviets.

I believe that it is not in our interest to get involved in becoming tools of the Americans in such a mobilization at a time when the Soviets offer us good aid, support us in the political arena, and provide us with military support against Israeli aggression. These are the considerations which dictated the Syrian position.

[Question] You spoke of Soviet political and military support for the Arabs in general and Syria in particular. Have you felt sincere willingness on the part of the Soviets to increase the magnitude of this support--especially the military part of it--in the wake of the events in Afghanistan?

[Answer] As is only natural, the primary base of Arab power or Syrian power is the Arab nation and the unity of the Arab position. When a united Arab position takes shape, Soviet support develops in a more favorable direction. But when the Arab position is not united and when Arab inconsistencies emerge, the base of Soviet support for the Arabs becomes limited.

We receive Soviet support and work continuously to strengthen this support, because we have no option while we struggle with Israel but to search for every avenue through which we can get help for our steadfastness and our struggle.

[Question] You said that the contest is between America and the Soviet Union and that the stage for this struggle is Arab and Islamic territory. Does Syria share the fear of some Arab states, especially the Gulf oil states, that the struggle will spread from Afghanistan to these states?

[Answer] The fact is that international conflict came to the area as a result of the Camp David agreement. This agreement upset the international balance, because the United States involved itself as a third party in Egyptian-Israeli relations or in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The separation of Egypt created an imbalance in the Arab situation and American involvement created an imbalance in the international situation. Thus, one of the causes of subsequent international developments was the Camp David agreement, although there were various other causes. The current international situation was brought about by a number of factors and did not come about as a result of the situation or the developments in Afghanistan. Developments in Afghanistan are a result of the sum total of the international conditions of the past 2 or 3 years. These developments are as follows:

First, the Camp David agreement.

Second, the beginning of the Chinese-American alliance.

Third, the deployment of Pershing missiles in Europe.

Fourth, the world economic situation and its various effects on both advanced and the Third World nations.

Fifth, the success of the Iranian revolution and the fall of the shah as an advanced base for American imperialism in the region.

These factors as a whole played a major role in shaping current international developments. In other words, the events in Afghanistan are a result of these situations. Consequently, I say that the Arab states' fear of a Soviet threat is not based on objective grounds. The Arab fear must come from the Israeli presence and those who strive to strengthen and reinforce this presence. The Americans are trying to create an imaginary enemy for us, so that we may be drawn to this imaginary enemy and turn our backs on the real enemy in Palestine, the Israeli enemy.

They want us to look for an enemy who exists only in fantasies--a non-existent enemy they are trying to present as a reality while the real enemy is residing in the heart of the Arab homeland in Palestine, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Sinai. Who can convince us that the Soviet Union is our enemy and is threatening us, while the enemy standing in the heart of our nation disperses our people, occupies our land and threatens us? The real enemy of the Arab nation is world Zionism and those who cooperate with it. Those who do not see these facts do not see the reality of current and prospective developments in the Arab arena.

[Question] You are not afraid then that the "Soviet infection" will spread from Afghanistan to its Arab and Islamic neighbors?

[Answer] As I said, this is just a fantasy. In the first place, Islam is doing well, and I do not believe that Islam could be doing well if the Americans and English were to embrace it. I do not believe that there is a single Moslem who thinks that Islam is protected either by the English, who colonized, tore apart, and exploited the Islamic world for hundreds of years, or by the Americans, who gave Palestine and Jerusalem as a gift to Israel. Besides, how could the British and the Americans be for Islam in Afghanistan and against Islam in Palestine and Iran?

All of us remember the American military moves against Iran a few weeks ago. Is Afghanistan an Islamic country and Iran a non-Islamic country? Is it a fact that if a threat comes from America, it is not a threat to Islam, but if there is a Soviet move, it constitutes a threat to Islam? We refuse to accept this kind of logic. Islam will do well when Moslems, especially the Arabs, turn [their attention] to Jerusalem. But if they are drawn into imaginary confrontations, they will have reason to [worry].

Furthermore, if there is a fear of Afghanistan because it is a Marxist country, there are Marxist countries that are closer to the oil than Afghanistan. Nevertheless, we do not view them as a threat either to the Arabs or to Islam, in spite of efforts to the contrary from time to time. There are Marxist regimes in the region--even in the Arabian Peninsula--but these regimes have not swallowed up Islam or the Moslems or the oil nations or the oil. This is what they want to regard as an enemy present in the Arabian Peninsula. Thus, the problem is altogether different. The problem is that an effort is being made to draw the Arabs into a peripheral battle unrelated to the cause of Palestine.

[Question] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's visit to Damascus raised many questions. One of the things said about it is that the Soviet minister failed to obtain open support from President al-Assad for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. What were the circumstances and ramifications of this visit?

[Answer] A joint communique was issued stating in precise terms the nature of relations between the Soviet Union and Syria and of the talks, which were successful. The Soviet Union did not ask us for open support for their entrance into Afghanistan, and it understands our position. We have said and we still say to all parties concerned that our main struggle is in Palestine. Conversely, in order to serve this main struggle, our relations with the Soviet Union must be good, growing and developing.

[Question] What did the Soviets bring to Syria that is new?

[Answer] Various discussions took place. In all of these discussions it was clear that Soviet-Syrian relations are proceeding in a good and positive manner.

[Question] Is it possible that the practical translation of Soviet political support in general and military support in particular will assume new proportions following Gromyko's recent visit?

[Answer] Relations are good and will continue to be good. This is in the interest of all the Arabs. I want to take this opportunity to stress that differences of opinion among some of the Arab countries concerning this or that international incident do not and will not affect our view and our concept of Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. At this point, we have found through our contacts that the Arab states regard Palestine as the main and central issue. Thus, with regard to the principal question, the Arabs are in agreement and Arab solidarity is proceeding in this direction.

Based on this, I say that we will work to continue strengthening this solidarity as long as it serves the struggle of the Arabs including Syria against Israel. Our disagreement with one country or another is a matter that relates to the international situation. It must not and will not affect the cause of Arab solidarity.

[Question] What is the extent of the disparity between Syrian and Saudi viewpoints which certain circles referred to in the wake of President al-Assad's recent visit to Riyadh? And will this have an effect on Arab solidarity in the future?

[Answer] President al-Assad's visit to Saudi Arabia went well, and we were satisfied with its results. Naturally, the international and Arab situations in all their aspects were reviewed, and we were in total and complete agreement on the importance that we all work to strengthen Arab solidarity and prevent rifts which would tend to impede the progress of joint Arab action. If we go back to the Egyptian president's recent speech and his attack against Saudi Arabia, we find confirmation of the extent of Sadat's hatred toward our brothers in Saudi Arabia because of their position on Camp David and the Palestinian issue.

[Question] There has been some renewed talk on the subject of a Syrian-Iraqi union. Is this serious talk?

[Answer] I have not heard of it.

8591
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LACK OF ORGANIZATION SEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURAL WOES

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 6 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial by Samih Abu Takk: "Observations Before the Start of the Agricultural Season"]

[Text] In spite of all the efforts that have been expended; in spite of all the projects that have been started and are being started to improve the agricultural situation; and in spite of all the decisions that have been made in this connection, there remain gaps which stand in the way of the farmer in this country.

It is common knowledge that in order for the land to produce, two basic ingredients must be made available. The first and most important ingredient is water. The second ingredient, which is also important, is fertilizer. These two ingredients form the vital artery for production, its stability and its growth.

It must be acknowledged that the agencies concerned are trying to provide these basic elements of agricultural production. However, it would appear from the facts of the situation that they are not being provided at the necessary time. Our primary agricultural seasons in general still fall far short of the desired stability, as we observed in the last season with regard to the production of grain in grain-growing regions.

If we look for the reasons, we find that some of them relate to nature and others relate to a lack of coordination among the agencies concerned in the matter. For example, water needed for agriculture has not yet been available in sufficient quantities to transform the greater part of [cultivated] land into irrigated land. Thus, agriculture is still generally accomplished without irrigation and is totally dependent on rainfall. For this reason, the state is trying to expedite the necessary solutions by establishing dams and drilling wells.

As to the second ingredient, namely the availability of the necessary fertilizer, it must be pointed out that this essential requirement has no relation to natural conditions, and does not depend on rain granted by

the heavens. Rather, the present defective situation is the fault of the supervisory agencies. In the Province of al-Hasakah, for example, we noted last season that there were complaints from the farmers. These complaints say that though the state imports fertilizer, the fertilizer does not reach the farmers until it is too late to derive the hoped-for benefit from it. The fertilizer does not arrive at the necessary time, the farmer does not use it after it becomes useless to do so, and this situation is repeated every year. I recall the president of the farmers union in the province saying. "We have demanded many times that warehouses be built in several areas so that fertilizer can be stored and used at the appropriate time." But this has not been accomplished, and it is his belief that it will not be accomplished.

Let me pose a question which does not call for an answer, but calls for action: Why have not such warehouses been built? What are the obstacles, and if they exist, why have we not eliminated them during past years? Has everyone forgotten that large amounts of imported fertilizer which are not used effectively cause a loss both in terms of their initial cost and in terms of production?

Since we depend [heavily] on agriculture, especially on the cultivation of grains, we emphasize the need to insure the basic requirements that serve agricultural production, be it water through effective utilization of water resources of the area, fertilizer through timely supply of adequate amounts to farmers, or tractors and spare parts the shortage of which is a basic obstacle for all concerned, especially the public and cooperative sector.

Many projects are being started and a lot of money is being invested to serve the agricultural sector. Nevertheless, we have been unable to rid ourselves of many defects. We can say that overcoming these defects does not require more than a little organization and coordination among all agencies concerned with this matter.

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CSO: 4802

RAILROAD, OTHER PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION IN HIMS PROVINCE

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 7 Feb 80 p 2

[Article: "Railroad Project in Final Stages"]

[Text] The project for the new Hims railroad line linking the phosphate mines with the city of Tartus is expected to be completed within a short time. The final stages of the project are now being implemented and the two mines are currently being linked to facilitate transport of the output. The new line will help transport Syrian phosphate from the mines to Tartus preparatory to exportation to countries which hold contracts with the mines.

An AL-BA'TH correspondent has learned that the project is being implemented in accordance with high technical specifications and will be totally completed during 1980.

Meanwhile, the Hims branch of the Railroads Authority will contract with a public sector company for the construction of stations along the route of the train between the village of Mahin and the phosphate mines.

Implementation operations are nearing completion for the dwelling units project on the Damascus Road in Hims. The project is being carried out by the State Construction Company for the State Housing Organization. There are 800 dwelling units in the project, which is to cost 31 million pounds. The company will complete the project during the next 2 months, according to Engineer Khalid Tatan, manager of the branch office of the State Construction Company.

The manager added that a second project being implemented in the al-Wa'r area will also be completed before the end of this year and will include 480 residential apartments at a cost of 20 million pounds. A responsible source in the Hims municipal government said that the government will acquire an additional 150 dunums of land on the Hamah Road this year in order to implement the proposed modern slaughterhouse project. The estimated cost of this project, which is one of the centralized projects, is under 10 million pounds. This will allow the city of Hims to rid itself of the situation and problems associated with the present slaughterhouse as well as the wastes and scraps of slaughtered animals.

INSURANCE COVERAGE GIVEN NEW LIFE

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 7 Feb 80 p 5

[Article by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kafri: "How Far Has the Insurance Industry Progressed in Our Country?"]

[Excerpts] "In light of the practical reality of the Syrian General Insurance Organization [SGIO], we formulated a plan of action during the second half of 1978 aimed at dealing with the reality of this organization and giving it a new and developed form to bring it into harmony with the nature of the insurance industry, which is characterized by constant renewal and development." This was the assertion made by Mr Taha al-Qatf, general director of SGIO, at the beginning of our meeting with him.

What does this plan of action contain? What are its results? Mr al-Qatf replies: "Nothing new had occurred in the kinds of insurance coverages offered by the country's insurance industry since it was nationalized, and this made the organization a slave to a number of conventional types of insurance. This situation helped to limit the organization's economic role and hamper it from opening up to numerous and important economic and social sectors which in themselves were considered a fertile area for insurance that deserved attention.

"Therefore, it was necessary that preparations be made to extend insurance services into these sectors with the aim of providing insurance protection as well as obtaining new financial resources that will contribute to increasing the financial surplus for development purposes. This will benefit the insurance industry and give wide scope for the creation of new tributaries from traditional types of insurance to the technical expertise which the organization already possesses."

Democracy in Insurance

Concerning the new plans, SGIO's director said: "We have offered group life insurance plans which aim at putting the slogan 'democracy in insurance' into action and providing an opportunity for working-class people, limited-income people and small independent businessmen to take

advantage of the special features of group life insurance, the most important of which is the provision of a decent life for the family in the event of the death of the breadwinner and for the insured in the event that he is disabled in any way--all for low insurance rates."

What are the coverages offered in this plan? Mr al-Qatf specifies them as follows: "Of course, the type of insurance is renewable term life insurance for a period of 1 year:

1. Life insurance on the member of the plan in the event of either natural or accidental death.
2. Insurance on the member against total disability due to accident or sickness.
3. Permanent partial disability due to accident.
4. Temporary disability due to accident.

"The amounts of insurance are as follows:

1. If the member dies while the insurance is in force, the organization must pay five times his annual pay whether the death occurs due to natural or accidental causes.
2. If the insured suffers permanent total disability due to accident or sickness, the organization is obligated to pay an amount equal to five times his annual pay.
3. If the insured suffers permanent partial disability, the organization is obligated to pay the following rates:
 - a. In case of the loss of one hand or one foot, the insured is paid half the amount of the insurance.
 - b. In case of the loss of the sight of one eye, the insured is paid one-third the amount of the insurance.
 - c. In case of the loss of a thumb or index finger of either hand, the insured is paid one-fourth the amount of the insurance.
4. If the insured suffers temporary disability due to an accident during or outside work hours and is thereby prevented from working, he will be paid 80 percent of his weekly income for a maximum of 26 weeks per accident."

Insurance Premium

The director of the organization specifies the premium as follows: "The basic rule for the insurance premium is that payment is based on the age

of the individual whose life is insured as of the date the insurance goes into effect.

"Assuming that the average age is 37 and the average monthly pay is 750 Syrian pounds, the member would be charged the following rates:

1. Life insurance premium: $45,000 \times 0.246 \text{ percent} = 110.70 \text{ pounds per year.}$
2. Permanent total disability insurance premium: $45,000 \times 0.1 \text{ percent} = 45.00 \text{ pounds per year.}$
3. Permanent partial disability insurance premium: $45,000 \times 0.05 \text{ percent} = 22.50 \text{ pounds per year.}$
4. Temporary disability premium: $9,000 \times .14 \text{ percent} = 36.00 \text{ pounds per year [as published].}$

Total annual payment: $110.70 + 45.00 + 22.50 + 36.00 = 214.20 \text{ pounds.}$

"All members between the ages of 18 and 60 will be accepted under this plan, and insurance will be offered for members over 60 until they reach the age of 65.

"This is a new type of insurance for the Syrian market. It is a type of 5-year term life insurance, except that the organization's liability for the stipulated coverages is renewed at the end of each insurance year. The purpose of making the contract period 5 years is to enable workers who have reached the age of 60 to take out insurance until they reach 65.

"The main principle of group insurance is that the insurance must be compulsory so that it includes all persons who are tied to the contract area by the bond of nationality. But because this is still a new activity in our society and is still in the experimental stage, the organization is making an exception and allowing membership in this plan to be voluntary for those workers who wish to join.

This plan is completely independent and has no connection with any form of social security, for example, or any other type of insurance. When a worker dies or suffers an accident, the benefit to which he is entitled from our organization is also completely independent; or in other words, these benefits are paid in addition to the benefits to which he is entitled from social insurance programs. Before this plan was offered, contacts were made with the General Federation of Trade Unions and it notified all the unions of the necessity of enrolling in this plan and assured that any authorized member of the union or management is entitled to sign this contract with the organization.

Fuel Station Insurance

Everyone remembers the accidents and dangers associated with fuel stations, the most recent example being the case of the station on Aleppo Road in which the organization paid out 160,000 pounds in damage to the neighborhood.

Insurance on these stations is an urgent necessity in order to protect the neighborhood and the workers. Such insurance is in effect in most of the developing and advanced states in the world, and the prime ministry has recommended that this kind of insurance be implemented. However, SADCOP was not obligated to do this since it is not supposed to deliver any fuel to station owners--and especially since the station equipment belongs to SADCOP--until the owners present proof that their stations are insured. Therefore, it is a civic responsibility. The same situation applies to mills, bakeries and hazardous installations, and even marketing firms. This shows the necessity for cooperation among all agencies of the state--industry, supply, capital secretariat, municipal governments--with the compulsory participation of the installations, stations, etc., and fulfillment of the civic responsibility of their owners in order to protect the neighborhood from the risks which threaten property and persons within the zone of danger surrounding these stations."

In response to another question, Taha al-Qatf replied: "We have a family home insurance plan aimed at protecting the home and all its contents from all risks. For example: if the value of a home is 50,000 pounds and its contents are valued at 50,000 pounds, we would charge 500 pounds per year and the insurance would cover fire, lightning, earthquakes, explosion of a gas cylinder or boilers used for household purposes, storms, and floods, as well as theft by breaking in or an attempt to commit such an act.

"There are other new insurance plans pertaining to certain secure occupations. These include income differential insurance for the employee or worker who is pensioned off to enable him to maintain his standard of living as of the day he leaves work and to provide a respectable old age for him."

Development of Methods of Operation

"The organization's relations with agents during the past phase were characterized by a certain amount of laxity and a tendency to refrain from dealing with the organization when it came to most types of voluntary insurance. Perhaps this can be attributed to the centralized method of operation which held sway in the organization's various relations, in which the role of the branch offices in the governorates scarcely went beyond acting as a means for sending and receiving mail between the central administration and its agents in those areas. This situation caused insurance work to slip to the level of routine and led to disregard for the

most important feature of this type of work, which is speed in settling and completing claims, because this provides satisfaction for the agent and increases the trust of the citizen, especially in cases where the citizen has a right to compensation.

"The centralization method of operation that was followed created a gap which those who dealt with the organization penetrated to damage its reputation in insurance. In addition this method of operation created a number of secondary work-associated factors, not to mention the harm that it did to the branch office employees who became beleaguered by a series of routine measures which hindered their technical thoroughness." In this connection, Mr al-Qatf asserted: "During the short period which has just past, we worked on reevaluating the organization's relations with the agents, and several measures have been taken to free these relations from restrictions. The organization has switched to a decentralized method of operation and the authority to issue insurance contracts and make settlements and adjustments has been transferred to the organization's branches in the governorate. Our purpose in doing this is above all to see that those who suffer losses receive what they are entitled to with a rapidity that satisfies their objective in dealing with the organization. We have been able in a very short time to complete a large number of cases which had accumulated for unjustified and purely routine reasons, as is shown by the fact that benefits paid during 1979 amounted to 95 million pounds--a large portion of which pertained to accidents which had occurred during previous years--in contrast to 53 million pounds in 1978.

This handling of claims has had a positive effect on restoring the trust whose continuation insurance companies strive to benefit from in their dealings with others. This is what encouraged us to move in good fashion toward the private sector and enabled us to stimulate the marketing of voluntary forms of insurance, such as fire and life insurance and insurance on goods imported under C.I.F. provisions and previously insured outside the country. Perhaps the financial gains from operations in 1979 best indicate the improvement in relations with the public, since 211 million pounds in premiums for various types of insurance was collected in 1979 in contrast to the 146 million pounds collected in 1978. This represents an increase of approximately 45 percent."

The Organization and International Markets

Concerning this aspect, the general director of the organization said: "The negotiations we conducted with reinsurers in international reinsurance markets, to establish the provisions of reinsurance agreements for 1979-80, helped us to achieve a savings of 3.5 million Syrian pounds for the organization for this year, as well as a savings of 2.07 million pounds for last year. It had been assumed that these funds would be remitted to reinsurers in foreign currency."

Concerning preventive measures to check losses, Mr al-Qatf said:

"The portfolio of affiliations with reinsurers for 1979 suffered heavy losses amounting to nearly 30 million Syrian pounds which the organization recovered in foreign currency.

"We have applied preventive measures to check losses and halt the serious increase in damages, since the organization, like insurance companies elsewhere in the world, is suffering from the exposure of insured goods which arrive at the ports to a number of risks due in some cases to carelessness in unloading the goods from the ships and poor storage in customs warehouses. In most cases, these goods are left outdoors exposed to the elements and, in some instances, loss. These cases undoubtedly contribute to the serious increase in damages for which compensation will be paid by the organization in its capacity of insurer.

"Our move to halt this serious increase in damages was based on the creation of a public installation belonging to the organization whose main purpose would be to oversee the loading, unloading, storage and protection of insured goods. This would give the work of our organization a new impetus toward achieving a new financial surplus. A plan for the creation of such an installation has been submitted to the responsible agencies."

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CSO: 4802

ARAB LEAGUE HOLDS SPECIAL SESSION ON GAFSA AGGRESSION

Tunis DEMOCRATIE in French Mar 80 p 1

[Editorial by B. C. E.; editor's note]

[Text] Meeting to examine Tunisia's complaint against the Libyan regime, responsible for the Gafsa aggression, the Arab League held a special session and has just provisionally concluded its work with a resolution that is neither fish nor fowl.

While Tunisian jurists and exegetes may be satisfied with the resolution because "reaffirming the need to respect the principles of the charter implies that there has been a violation of its principles," the average Tunisian and the man in the street will not understand why, when Libya was in fact the aggressor, the honorable representatives of the Arab nations belonging to the League did not simply condemn the aggression outright.

But could Tunisia reasonably expect more than this family-type resolution when the organization of Arab states is still the victim of contradictions?

In the opinion of specialists, the resolution just approved is the maximum that Tunisia could hope for.

It constitutes a success to be chalked up to the new General Secretariat of the League, which has passed its first ordeal by fire.

It is even a success for Tunisian diplomacy that the resolution contained no paragraph condemning the use of foreign forces in the region.

Tunisians will therefore have to yield to the facts: It is not by appealing to international institutions -- the Arab League, the OAU, even the United Nations -- that Tunisia can ward off the dangers now threatening it.

Furthermore, "aid from friendly nations" cannot constitute a decent solution and our leaders would be well advised to seek assurance once again from their friends about the nature of the support they could lend us in the future.

Tunisia must first of all rely on itself and it is urgent that it act to create conditions favorable to the organization of its domestic forces into a strike force which alone can constitute an appropriate response to the nature of the danger.

In order to do so, the regime must come to terms with itself through the rehabilitation of the social climate, a resumption of the dialog with young people and a readjustment of the economic, social and political aspects of its policies in order to bring about the conditions for a broad and necessary consensus.

Replacing the men heading the ministries can certainly restore the efficiency of those where it may at one time have been lacking, but such a step is not enough to meet current needs.

The dangers threatening Tunisia's stability are real and current.

The Libyan regime will not demobilize.

Since the point of no-return has been reached in relations between the two regimes, everything indicates that the Libyan Government has no other alternative than to move full speed ahead.

Unfortunately, nothing indicates that the dangers in our country are taken seriously enough or that our leaders are ready to take the path of real solutions.

To Our Readers

DEMOCRATIE is a weekly newspaper that can now be published only once a month.

Why?

Because the authorities refuse to apply the law exempting newsprint from the tax on production from which all other local newspapers benefit.

DEMOCRATIE and ERRAI are therefore subject to discrimination costing over 12,000 dinars.

11,464
CSO: 4400

GOVERNMENT'S DEMAND FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HIT

Tunis DEMOCRATIE in French Mar 80 pp 1, 4

[Text] In requesting military aid from France and the United States following the Gafsa attack, the Tunisian Government created unrest among Tunisian public opinion and diplomatic complications abroad.

In a newly independent country that has achieved the total evacuation of foreign troops and which makes nonalignment the cornerstone of its international policy, the call for foreign military aid is at first glance shocking. Furthermore, it may look like an added complication in an international environment which, from the Atlantic to the Gulf, is already a theater of confrontation for the great and medium-size powers. Therefore, like many Tunisians, we do not see the timeliness or usefulness of this appeal, even if the aid is minimal.

Asking for foreign military aid is for the purpose of overcoming difficulties which the nation cannot overcome alone. Was that truly the situation on Sunday, 27 January? Or did the government -- poorly informed -- believe that the territory was being or could be attacked from several points? Finally, the Gafsa attackers were few in number and the Tunisian forces were able to handle them alone, despite the fierce resistance of the assailants.

The government provided justification a posteriori for its request for aid. It probably wanted to test the willingness of France and the United States to provide aid -- as they had previously proclaimed -- in case Tunisia's security were threatened. The test was positive. It probably also wanted to dissuade those who would like to continue their attempts at destabilization by clearly showing them that Tunisia would not be alone in such an event.

This being the case, we believe that asking for foreign military aid generally means -- especially within the current international context -- embarking upon a dangerous path, and for two reasons:

1 -- Foreign military aid can involve the country in a process finally leading to the loss of what we tried to preserve: the country's autonomy.

One begins by asking for additional aid or aid in principle. Then one asks for an increase in this material aid and its diversification. Finally, one asks that men be sent and in the end, what one has is an intervention.

2 -- In the current international situation, characterized by a deterioration of East-West detente and the search for a response to the Camp David accords, an expansion of the Tunisian-Libyan conflict can only project Tunisia into the terrain of direct confrontations. Tunisia, which thus far has been able to remain relatively removed from such confrontations, will surely lose its autonomy, becoming nothing but the pawn of the contradictory forces facing one another in the world.

Now that the test of French-American aid has yielded a positive result, it is important to go no further and to base the country's security -- in addition to the strengthening of the domestic front -- on an international consensus making Tunisia a zone of peace and nonconfrontation.

Tunisia's interest and the interest of peace point toward increasing numbers of these zones of peace and nonconfrontation.

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CSO: 4400

REORGANIZATION OF UGET RECOMMENDED

Tunis DEMOCRATIE in French Mar 80 p 16

[Article by M. B. H.]

[Text] The recent events in Gafsa have given rise to dangerous unrest in the university community, unrest that in the last few days has degenerated into scenes of fighting and extreme violence. It is true that from time to time, fairly serious tension has arisen between the supporters of the different political factions pitting students against one another, but rarely has this tension taken on such scope or gravity. What is worse, in their ideological candor, their ignorance about the real nature of the Libyan regime or their blind, systematic opposition to the Destourian government, some students, both men and women, have gone so far as to acclaim the name of Qadhdhafi. It is not our purpose here to label this elite group of the Tunisian youth as antinationalist or trouble makers, as the PSD [Destourian Socialist Party] and its official press have done in the past, but rather, to seek out the reasons for this continuing deterioration of the political situation in the university and arrive at a solution.

This escalation of violence and intolerance among the students may well bring into question the very integrity of the university and even go beyond the confines of that community. Those in government and the PSD who are interested in the student problem should think about this. Their passiveness and rejection of any reasonable and courageous solution during the past decade could only fatally lead to today's dangerous impasse.

It is a secret to no one that for many years now, the PSD has sought to make the UGET [General Union of Tunisian Students] a satellite, to stifle any attempt on the part of students to manage their organization freely and to silence, if not completely break by force, any free expression of the students' legitimate claims. The PSD machine's hold over the UGET and the weakening or eradication of the Destourian student organization, itself the victim of the action of party leaders even though it once acted as a buffer between the party and non-Destourian students, has led the Union to long death throes and disintegration.

It is that same determination to strangle any trace of independence with regard to the power of the student community that has led to the disappearance of the UGET, the BDET [Bank for the Economic Development of Tunisia], and therefore, of any legitimate structure of representation that might bring together all students.

The period of indifference and demobilization was therefore very rapidly followed by the appearance of a whole host of groups with different allegiances, mainly the CUP [expansion unknown] and the fundamentalists, who remain the most activist and who are fighting with increasing violence.

This rather summary description of the evolution of the situation in the university over the past 10 years nevertheless enables us to draw up a negative balance sheet of the PSD's action among the students. Past experience has demonstrated convincingly that the supporters of the policy of mobilizing the students are responsible for the situation in which the university now finds itself and for all the dangers lying in wait.

It would be criminal not to look to the restoration of legitimate structures of representation for students as soon as possible so as to bar the way to violence and substitute a dialog between all students for the intolerance now practiced by certain factions.

Permitting the emergence of a Renewed UGET would certainly now eradicate the alarming tension now afflicting the university, but it would have the advantage of easing a situation that is becoming more explosive every day and that neither the government nor the PSD could contain indefinitely by resorting to the closure of the university, the suspension of scholarships or the pure and simple expulsion of students deemed to be trouble-makers in the university.

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CSO. 4400

NDF LEADER DISCUSSES FRONT'S GENESIS, YEMENI UNIFICATION ATTEMPTS

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Mar 80 pp 23-24

[Interview with Sultan Ahmad 'Umar, Chairman of National Democratic Front, by Adonis; "Sultan Ahmad 'Umar: We Are Not an Arm of Aden's"]

[Text] Aden--The NDF [National Democratic Front] is a unique political experience in opposition and its chairman talks here about the concerns of unity and of democracy.

Four years have passed since the formation of the NDF in northern Yemen. Its concerns are big and its goals bigger. But with parties, organizations, unionist and social councils and independent national figures, the NDF has been able to stand fast and to make important strides which it crowned with the dialogue that it has begun with the regime in San'a' and with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the President of North Yemen himself. The fruit of the dialogue so far has been agreement on numerous principles and a desire displayed by the regime to develop political life in North Yemen and in its agencies and establishments.

The fact that the front has spent this period giving priority to political struggle and to overcoming all the tribal and programmatic differences that could threaten its unity has not prevented it from responding violently whenever dealt with violently. This has drawn attention to another aspect of this front.

Unity between the two Yemens continues to be the main goal of the front's action. The front stands at present between Aden and San'a', trying to find common denominators. AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI has met with Sultan Ahmad 'Umar, the front's secretary general, in this interview:

[Question] Why was the NDF formed in the YAR [Yemen Arab Republic] and what are the goals it aspires to achieve?

[Answer] The NDF was formed in the YAR and came into existence on 11 February 1976 after a long dialogue among the national and progressive parties in the northern part of Yemen. The aim of the dialogue was to unite the country's political parties and forces for the struggle to achieve the front's goals as contained in the its political program.

The most prominent of these goals are the preservation of national sovereignty and independence in the northern part, putting an end to the imperialist and reactionary intervention in the country's affairs and wiping out all the manifestations of this intervention. The front was also formed to achieve democracy in the country through a permanent democratic constitution and through establishing a people's assembly elected directly and freely, to secure the political liberties of the parties and of the political forces and also to guarantee the liberties of the labor unions and the freedom of thought, of the press and of expression because the 1971 constitution bans and prohibits freedom to the various political forces.

Moreover, the front was formed to achieve comprehensive economic development and to build a liberated and advanced national economy and, consequently, to enable our country to catch up with the civilization and culture of the present age because our country's backwardness is a backwardness that covers all aspects of life. The legacy of the previous conditions since the black rule of the imams is still present and this issue requires enormous efforts to achieve happiness for the Yemeni citizen and to realize prosperity and improve the living conditions of the people.

Everybody knows that 2 million Yemenis live outside the country due to the lack of work opportunities at home. Therefore, the issue of development is linked not only to the people's living conditions but also to the repatriation of the immigrants and to achieving real economic independence.

[Question] Four years have passed on the existence of the front. Where does the front now stand in relation to the tasks that it has projected?

[Answer] The front is tantamount to a crowning of the firm traditions in the Yemeni national democratic movement. This front came into existence after several attempts to unite the national forces. For example, the United National Front emerged in Aden in 1955 to unite the forces struggling against colonialism and for liberation and independence. Then came the National Front which led the national struggle until complete independence was achieved on 30 November 1967. In the north, the Popular National Congress emerged in 1963 and played an outstanding role in recruiting tens of thousands of revolutionary guards to defend the republic.

Within this framework, a number of organizations emerged to defend the Yemeni people, including the National Forces Popular Organization which engaged in the struggle against the attempts to topple the republic after conclusion of the Jiddah agreement in 1965. Moreover, the national forces were united in a single bloc during the 70-day siege against San'a' and were able to foil the siege, to entrench the republic and to defend the revolution. The NDF which came into existence on 11 February 1976 has crowned all the unification attempts preceding it and has been able within 4 years to exert influence among the various groups of the people in the countryside and in the urban areas. Consequently, it has come to enjoy broad popular support at home and support from the forces of progress and liberation.

[Question] What are the political forces and sectors of which the front was formed?

[Answer] The front was formed of various national and democratic parties, such as the Revolutionary Democratic Party, the Democratic People's Union Party, the Yemeni Labor Party, the Yemeni National Revolutionaries Organization and the Popular Vanguard Party. During the NDF struggle, the 13 June Front of the Popular Forces and independent national and progressive figures joined it. The front currently includes tribal chieftains, clergymen and patriotic merchants and enjoys the support of the farmers, workers, the intellectual elements and the persecuted groups of the people.

[Question] In the north, there is a tribal situation that imposes some form of struggle. Does the front take advantage of this social situation by using it in its general policy?

[Answer] Tribalism or the remnants of tribal forms and customs are still present in Yemen. These forms are still in existence. Historically, the existence of the Yemeni tribes has been linked with the struggle for freedom, independence and the development of society. Ultimately, the tribes are the Yemeni people. The NDF has devoted extensive attention to the tribes, especially in the tribal areas where tribalism prevails strongly, such as the northern and eastern parts of the country. The front has been able to exert influence among the ranks of these tribes, particularly in the past 2 years. This is why the front enjoys broad support among the northern and eastern tribes. The front has formed in these areas leaderships comprised of patriotic tribal chieftains, as has happened in al-Jawf area where the tribes themselves have elected their leaderships. This fact reflects the continued survival of the old democracy in the Yemeni society.

Peaceful Struggle

[Question] When the front appeared, did it start with political struggle, military struggle or with both?

[Answer] Since its creation, the front has been eager to follow the path of peaceful and democratic development. Peaceful struggle has been the main form of its struggle and the front still adopts this struggle. It has underlined its abidance by this form of struggle in all its literature. The front has never engaged in armed battles except in self-defense and in defense of the masses. It has been eager to embark on dialogue with the government. It engaged in dialogue with al-Hamdi's government and al-'Ashmi's government and then with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's government. This dialogue has stemmed from the front's belief in the need to realize democracy and to guarantee the freedom of political action so that the country may avoid bloody struggle.

In fact, the imperialist forces have been inciting domestic conflicts constantly because they do not want stability, security and peace for

Yemen. These forces have used internal lackey groups to create fabricated confrontations and these groups have dragged the government into battles against the democratic national movement. Within this framework, the front has been forced to resort to violence to defend itself and its existence in its capacity as the leader of the people's struggle for sovereignty, independence and democracy.

We Are not an Arm of Aden's

[Question] There is an opinion that says that the NDF does not possess the independence of movement and that it is one of the arms of South Yemen's Government.

[Answer] The front has taken a positive stance toward the national regime in the south and has defended it because it is present on a part of the Yemeni soil, because this regime defends sovereignty and independence and because it works to achieve economic and social development and to prevent foreign intervention in its domestic affairs. We have supported the national democratic regime in the south on the basis of this premise and this does not mean that the front is an arm of this regime's.

There is another point, namely that the front is an organization that includes political parties and forces that engaged in struggle before the 26 September 1962 revolution which established the Yemen Arab Republic. Consequently, these forces were present in the north and engaged in struggle before the PDRY came into existence. Therefore, the front has its independence and it includes political forces that have their various ideologies but that agree on the minimum-limit program. Some information media portray the front as if it were a part of the regime in the south and portray the current struggle as if it were a struggle between the north and the south. This is wrong.

Elements of Agreement With San'a'

[Question] It has been reported that you have met with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, that a dialogue has been going on for months to bring about a successful national reconciliation in the north and that the front will participate in the government through some of its elements. Is there an explanation for these equations [sic]?

[Answer] Out of its eagerness for the peaceful and democratic line of development and for sparing the country the tribulations of violence and its eagerness to foil the opportunity for the foreign forces and so that the north may not turn into an arena for domestic battles and conflicts, the front expressed its readiness to cooperate with the government in its declaration of 24 March 1979 and raised demands through which, if met, we can guarantee security and peace in the north. This wish was met by a similar wish on the part of brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and thus the June 1979 dialogue took place.

[Question] Did the dialogue take place directly or through a third party?

[Answer] The dialogue took place directly in June 1979 and was resumed last January. The talks have been constructive and positive and we have felt positive understanding on the part of brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Through the dialogue, we have reached agreement on the bases of the national meeting--bases focused on a series of programmed goals: National sovereignty and independence and the adoption of an independent domestic and foreign policy based on equality, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and nonalignment. Agreement has also been reached on establishing democracy in Yemen. There have been initiatives by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who has declared that free and democratic elections will be held for the People's Assembly. We have also agreed on safeguarding democracy in the country.

Agreement has also been reached to mobilize all society's forces and capabilities for development and for rebuilding the national economy in a direction leading to the development of agriculture, to creating an industry, to exploiting the mineral resources, to dealing with all the aspects of backwardness and to adopting the civilization of the age.

[Question] Has the agreement been in writing?

[Answer] Yes it has been in writing. One of the points on which we have agreed has been the point of reuniting the country peacefully and democratically and of achieving a comprehensive national unity among the country's various forces and figures, be they in the government or outside it, in the front or outside it.

Within this framework, agreement has been reached to form a national coalition government after consultations with the country's various political forces. However, this issue has not been discussed in detail so far.

Unity Is A Must Within Framework of Sovereignty

[Question] You are talking about unity between the two parts of Yemen and we know that the south has a government that adopts the popular democratic scientific socialism. In the light of this fact, how do you visualize this unity?

[Answer] Unity is a big goal. This unity, to be achieved, deserves that every party act not on the strength of its own conviction but on the strength of the conviction of all the parties concerned, but within the framework of safeguarding national independence and sovereignty in an atmosphere of democracy and progress. This issue can be dealt with by the unity committees that are discussing the bases of all the aspects of this unity. To my knowledge, the unity committees have made a long stride in this direction. It is our evaluation that the Yemenis can agree if the foreign forces stop interfering in this internal affairs.

[Question] How do you view the unity as an issue, a plan and a possibility?

[Answer] The issue of unity is fundamental and it is the fate and destiny of every Yemeni. No two Yemenis disagree on the need to achieve it. It is the fundamental goal of everybody, except for a few lackeys who are linked to foreign circles.

The issue of unity is the people's subject of discussion at present, especially in the wake of the Cairo agreement and the Tripoli, Kuwait and San'a' declarations. As to how this unity is achieved, this is done by taking the interests of the various forces into consideration.

[Question] There is a disparity between the literary level and the political level in Yemen. At the literary level, there is a unity embodied practically in a single union [sic]. What is the secret behind the progress of literature and the retreat of politics?

[Answer] Literature cannot be separated from politics. Literary people have their positions and they deal with politics. One of the issues that arouse the interest of men of letters is the issue of unity. Out of this conviction [sic], the men of letters have formed their single union in the two parts of the Yemeni homeland. Attempts have been made to unify the other organizations. However, these attempts have faltered for numerous reasons. We believe that securing democracy in the north will lead to the stability of the popular organizations and to forming other unionist and popular organizations. This will help achieve rapprochement between the unionist and popular organizations in both parts of the country.

[Question] What is the extent of the non-Arab foreign influence?

[Answer] After 1970, the aspects of foreign intervention took various forms. There has been political, economic and cultural intervention. The political intervention has emerged through the activities of the western, U.S. and British development missions, in addition to the presence of 23 missionary organizations in the north (the Catholic and Baptist societies, the peace corps and others).

These corps which claim to be offering assistance engage in fact in political activity and try to implant espionage networks in the country and to cast doubts on the national culture and on our genuine Arab traditions. The aspects of economic intervention are embodied in the widespread of foreign banks which play a major role in the financial aspects and which hold the people's savings. They also control the issue of the credit facilities for imports. What is important is that the Yemenis do not need people to import certain goods for them.

[Question] Do you encounter in the front any "sensitivity" between the traditional al-Zaydiyah and al-Shafi'iyah [Muslim religious sects] or have you surpassed this?

[Answer] Such sensitivity is not at all present in the front, as it is not present among the people's ranks. Such "sensitivities" used to be nurtured by the colonialist circles. Moreover, the major feudalist families used to also benefit from nurturing such tendencies.

Historically, the sects have coexisted in Yemen without violent conflicts. In addition to al-Zaydiyah and al-Shafi'iyah, there is al-Isma'iliyah sect also.

[Question] It is noted in the Yemeni literary production that there is a unity of language in terms of substance and inclination?

[Answer] This is true. The Yemenis respect their heritage which is embodied in al-Shafi'iyah, al-Zaydiyah and al-Isma'iliyah sects and they view instigation of sectarianism and of fanatic tribalism as a call against Yemeni unity and, therefore, as something motivated by the imperialist culture.

Foreign Pressures and Those Exerting Them

[Question] The agreement reached between the front and the leadership of the north, represented in President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, is subjected to pressures by foreign forces who have no interest in detente between the two Yemens. Can these pressures be defined?

[Answer] Certainly. Reaction and imperialism have worked against the realization of an actual national reconciliation based on national sovereignty and independence. These forces have actually begun to exert active efforts to confront this national will. Their confrontation is taking numerous forms. For example, we have been aware that they have moved internally and abroad to muddle the agreement from the information aspect. They have also instigated a series of assassinations of the national elements and have touched off acts of violence in more than one area with the aim of striking the climate that is conducive to the success of the agreement. It is also felt that there is thinking on their part to stage armed battles. These forces commit every now and then acts of violence which they attribute to the NDF with the aim of harming the front and of undermining its reputation. But we expose and uncover all the actions and plans and try to confront them.

[Question] Have you found a certain organization among the reactionary and colluding forces that is prominent in such actions?

[Answer] There are gangs controlled by some reactionary tribal chieftains who have suspect connections. There are also other gangs that are controlled by al-Wahhabiyun Movement in North Yemen. These groups and others like them are the ones that commit such acts.

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